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MHT BA-96

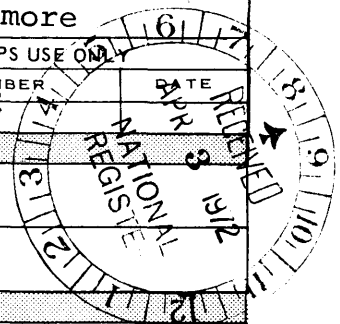
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Baltimore
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	OCT 27 1972
DATE	



1. NAME

COMMON:
Baltimore County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Baltimore County Courthouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington Avenue between Pennsylvania and Chesapeake Avenues

CITY OR TOWN:
Towson

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore	CODE 005
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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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<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:
Baltimore County, Maryland (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Baltimore County Courthouse, Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Towson

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore

ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 27 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<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
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

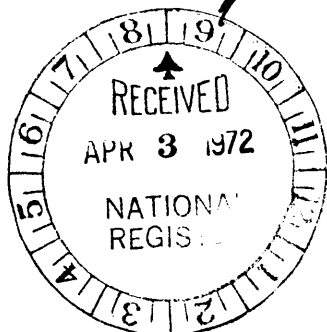
The Baltimore County Courthouse is located on a city block in Towson, Maryland. It is bounded on the east by Washington Avenue, on the south by Chesapeake Avenue, on the west by Baltimore Avenue and on the north by Pennsylvania Avenue.

Finished in the year 1855, the original sandstone and marble Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson, Maryland, was an impressive rectangular block, two stories in height and nine bays in length. The east facade was embellished with a two-story Greek Revival porte-cochère with a pediment supported by fluted Doric columns. The large windows of both the first and second floor level were enhanced by a narrow, coved stone lintel with a decorative croisette. At a later date the shallow "A" frame roof of the main block was crowned with a centered, eight-windowed, pilastered, frame cupola bearing a domed copper roof. All of these original exterior treatments are preserved intact (1971).

In 1910 two-story additions were built at the north and south ends respectively, slightly recessed back from the facade (east) wall of the original structure, a successful carry-over of the classical character of the building. It was also at this time that a rear (west) one-story wing was added to the west giving the structure an overall T plan.

Later remodeling in 1925 was completed which included raising the west wing to two full stories and extending it almost twice its original length. In 1958 the final stage of the present form was completed. This involved the erection of a massive three-story rectangular block at the once exposed end of the 1910-1925 west addition and at this time the building evolved into its present "H" plan.

The courthouse is pleasantly situated within a park-like courthouse green that is enjoyed frequently by visitors and townspeople alike.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

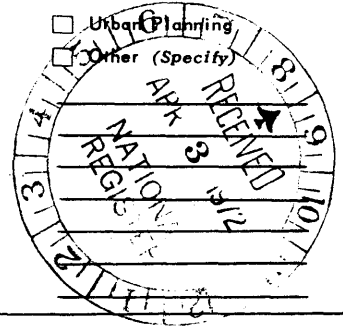
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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) 1855; 1910; 1925; 1956-1958

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore County Courthouse has evolved over the years into one of the few "H" plan buildings, public or private, in the state; nor are they common across the nation. Despite several remodelings and having sustained several additions, the Greek-Revival influence on the east facade remains strong. The small-town concept of the original village has gradually been overwhelmed by the inevitable expansion of Baltimore County, and it is ever increasing.

The green, tree-shaded lawn adds to the cityscape of the Courthouse square in contrast to the multi-story post World War II office buildings around the perimeter of the lawn.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1854 the Commissioners of Baltimore County hired the architectural firm of Dixon, Balbirnie & Dixon to design a courthouse in Towson, the new county seat. (In 1851 the Maryland legislature had separated Baltimore City from the county creating two independent political units.)

Thomas Balbirnie left the firm a few months later. The remaining partners, Thomas Dixon and his brother James M. Dixon, continued to supervise the completion of the structure.

Thomas Dixon was a prominent architect in the Baltimore area from the 1850's until his death in 1856. His contemporaries included George A. Frederick, architect of the Baltimore City Hall and E. G. Lind who designed the Peabody Institute. Dixon, with the assistance of his brother who died in 1863 abruptly ending his architectural career, drew the plans for the Baltimore City Jail (1859). Thomas Dixon's works vary from a set of proposals for Baltimore County schools, to rowhouses on Eutaw Place in Bolton Hill (1853), to the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church (1871).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: J. Richard Rivoire, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland; Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust.

Baltimore City Directories. 1849-1886. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

Dielman File. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

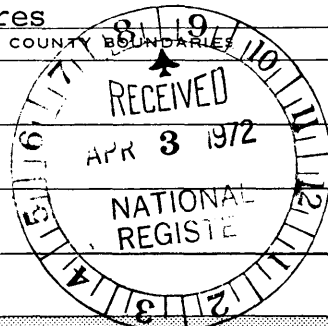
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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° 23' 59"	76° 36' 23.5"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Jan. 17, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date January 18, 1972

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

Peter M. Wiley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/27/72

ATTEST:
William Muntz
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-19-72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

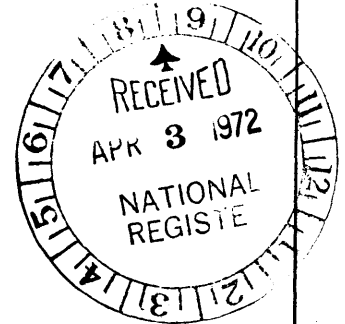
STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 27 1972

(Number all entries)

Baltimore County Courthouse

#4. OWNER OF PROPERTY continued

(contact) Mr. Dale Anderson, County Executive
County Office Building
111 West Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204



#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Dixon's Greek-Revival courthouse is reminiscent of Hampton House, Hampton National Historic Monument, the home of the Ridgely family about three miles to the north. The courthouse cupola is almost a direct copy of the one at Hampton. However, Dixon's cupola is much more severe in detailing in keeping with the severe style of the entire structure.

Hampton would have been a logical model for a Baltimore County Courthouse. Architecturally no other building in the county can equal it. The Ridgely's held a prominent place in Maryland history. The 1850's owner, John Ridgely, had donated a forty acre farm to the county.

Dixon & Dixon's courthouse served the county until the twentieth century, when the expanding county government required more space. In 1910 the Baltimore architects, E. F. Baldwin and Josias Pennington, enlarged the courthouse--almost doubling the floor space. Seven years earlier the firm had enlarged the size of the Maryland State House in a Colonial-Revival style which compliments the original 1777 section. Baldwin and Pennington showed the same respect for old buildings in their addition to the Baltimore County Courthouse. They used the same type of stone, the same scale, identical window size and treatment.

Baldwin and Pennington extended the east facade to the north and to the south. In order to prevent one vast expanse of stone wall that would diminish the impact of the central portico, they tried to break up the east facade. At the beginning of each addition at the north and south ends of the original building Baldwin and Pennington placed a pediment, supported by two-story pilasters, echoing the temple form of the entrance. The resulting east wall, although almost a city block long, does not overpower the central section.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 27 1972

(Number all entries)

Baltimore County Courthouse

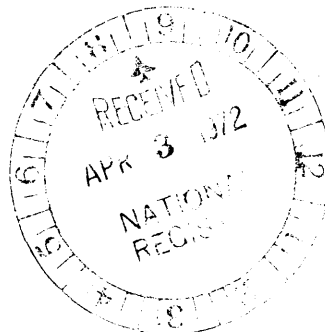
#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

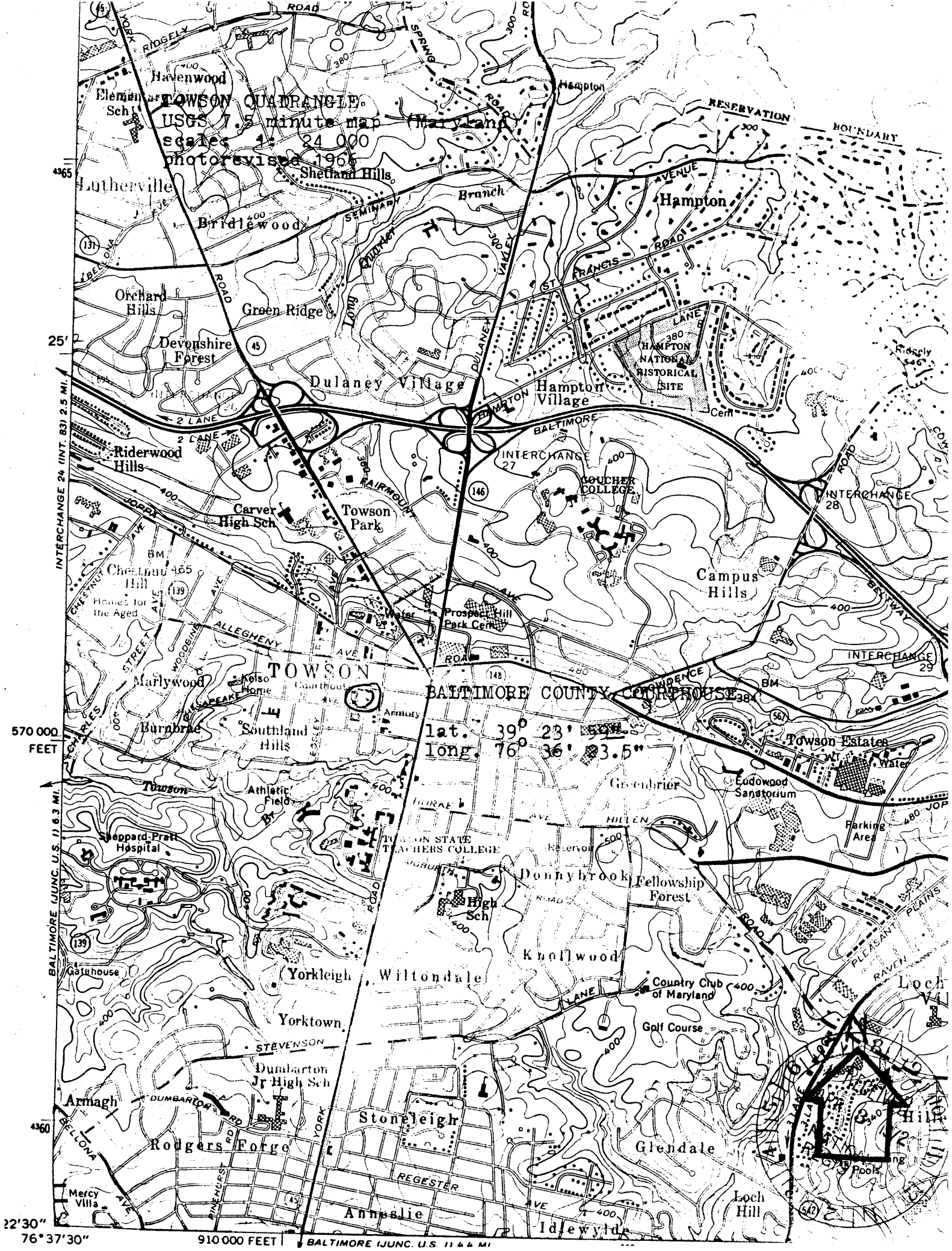
Baldwin and Pennington are as significant to Maryland architecture as Thomas Dixon, if not more so. They designed a variety of structures from buildings at Catholic University in Washington, to the predigious Maryland Club in Baltimore to railroad stations of all sizes for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Although they can hardly be called pioneers of modern architecture, Baldwin and Pennington made a large and important contribution to the late nineteenth century architectural heritage of Maryland.

Further twentieth-century additions to the Baltimore County Courthouse, although architecturally undistinguished, do not interfere with the Dixon or Baldwin and Pennington facades or with the green lawn in front.

#9. REFERENCES continued

- Laws of Maryland 1853-1854. Maryland State Library, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Proceedings of the Commissioners of Baltimore County, 1852-1856. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Radoff, Morris L., The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland Part One: The Courthouses. Annapolis: Hall of Records Commission, 1960.
- "Report of the Commissioners of Baltimore County; In Answer to Resolutions Passed by the House of Delegates January 14, 1856." House Documents F. 1856. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
- "Office of the Clerk Circuit Court for Baltimore County" Orville T. Gosnell, Clerk. No date. pamphlet. Attached.



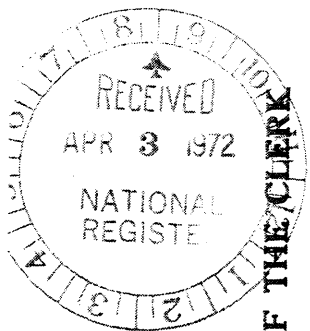


TOWSON QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
scale 1:24 000
photorevised 1968

lat. $39^{\circ} 23' 53.5''$
long. $76^{\circ} 36' 03.5''$

465
25'
INTERCHANGE 24 (INT. 83) 2.5 MI. A
570 000 FEET
BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 6.3 MI.
22'30"
76°37'30"

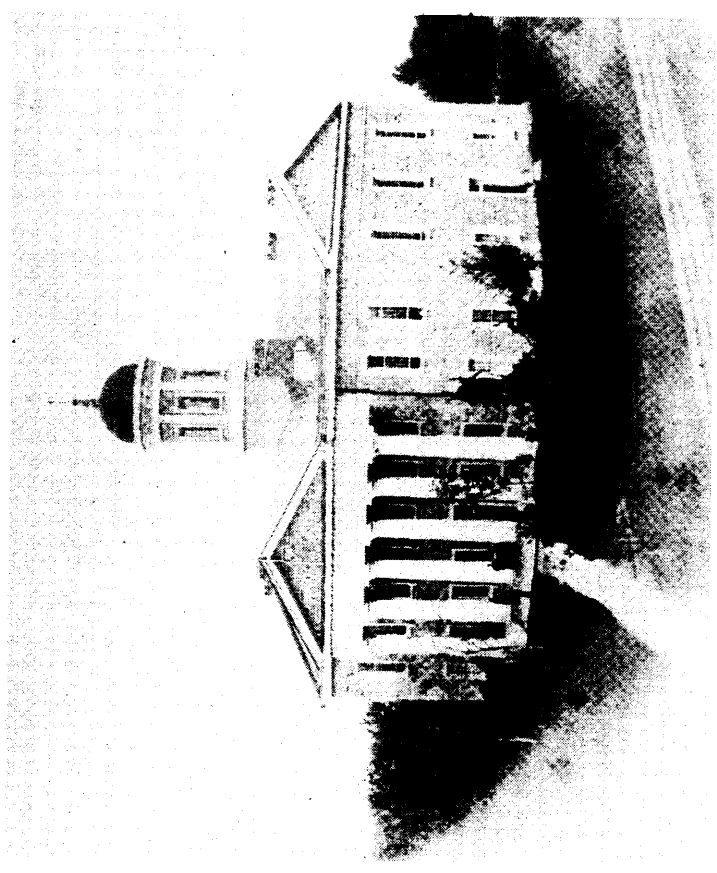
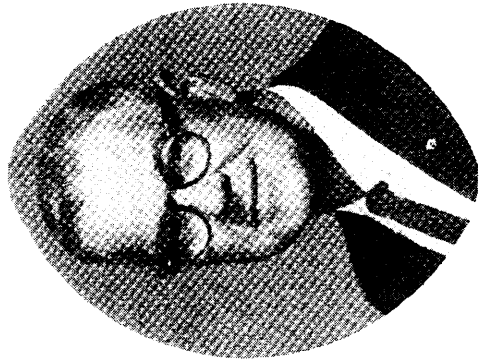
910 000 FEET | BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.4 MI



(2)

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Circuit Court
for
Baltimore County
Orville T. Gosnell
Clerk



Baltimore County Courthouse of 1857.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

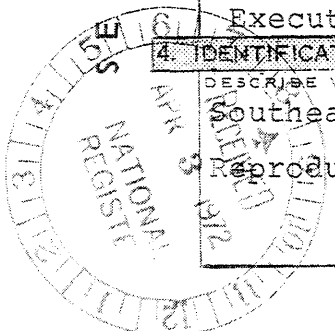
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 27 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Baltimore County Courthouse	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Baltimore County Courthouse	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Avenue between Pennsylvania Avenue & Chesapeake Ave.			
CITY OR TOWN: Towson			
STATE: Maryland	CODE	COUNTY: Baltimore	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: unknown			
DATE OF PHOTO: after mid-1850's, before 1910			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: no negative extant; original hangs in County Executive's Office, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Southeast facade of courthouse before additions of 1910 Reproduced on cover of pamphlet: "Office of the Clerk Circuit Court for Baltimore County" Orville T. Gosnell, Clerk. n.p., c. late 1960's			



MHT BA-96