

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666220

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 3 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 2 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old Washington County Library Building

AND/OR COMMON

21 Summit Avenue; Groh Foundation Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21 Summit Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

024

Sixth

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

043

✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	ACCESSIBLE	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: RESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		YES: UNRESTRICTED	MILITARY	X OTHER: Vacant
		X NO		

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

c/o Garland E. Groh Foundation, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

151 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21740

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 21 Summit Avenue in Hagerstown, Washington County, the Groh Foundation building stands on the west side of the street near the center of the block formed by Washington (U.S. Route 40 East) and Antietam Streets, about a block southwest of Public Square.

The building is a 1900-1901 Neo-Georgian stone masonry structure of monumental proportions. Actually two stories high, the building appears to be one huge story from the facade or east elevation. Structurally sound, it is in fairly original condition except for the roof which was replaced in recent years following a fire. An ornate metal gate with ornate lanterned arch resting on two square masonry posts stands to the north with the south post attached to the building.

The facade or east elevation has three bays, a single Renaissance-influenced window on each side of a large recessed entranceway with two Roman Ionic columns below a large semicircular pediment. The front rests on a high foundation with a concave water table. The entranceway projects forward in two parts with a series of steps and a landing leading to the doorway. The first floor is terminated by a broad entablature surmounted by a high closed balustrade, actually the second story.

The single facade windows have heavy, pedimented entablatures supported by large scroll brackets and double-hung, wooden sash with nine-over-nine lights. The doorway has double, wooden doors with large lights, a rectangular transom and wide architrave trim. Inscribed in the entablature above the entranceway is the date "A.D. 1900" and the name of the current owner, Garland E. Groh Foundation, Inc. The closed balustrade is as high as the semicircular pediment and has a single panel of criss-cross pattern above the single windows.

The north and south elevations have double-hung, wooden sash windows on the first and second floors. Those of the first floor have nine-over-nine lights and flat arches with raised keystones. The second story windows have six-over-six lights and are grouped in two sets of two on each side. Large decorative panels along the second floor do not correspond to the window arrangement indicating that if the panels are original, the windows of this level are later additions. Typical of many urban buildings, the side exterior walls are more plain than the facade.

A low, two-story wing, probably later, projects from the west side.

The interior has Renaissance decoration of a grand scale on the first floor. Photographs of the other rooms indicate that they are plain with simple architrave trim.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
			<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Neo-Georgian masonry structure was designed by the noted late nineteenth century American architect Bruce Price (1845-1903). Erected between 1900 and 1901 for the Washington County Free Library, the building is two stories high, of monumental proportions. A good example of its style, the structure remains largely unaltered with quality detailing. It was used by the Library until 1965 when it moved to its present location on South Potomac Street.

The facade or east elevation is one of the most sophisticated structures in the central area of Hagerstown. Original in condition, the front is particularly significant for the symmetrical arrangement of and the interplay of shapes and lines formed by the Renaissance windows, with pedimented entablatures and Roman Ionic columns in antis supporting a large semi-circular pediment above the entranceway. The facade presents an interesting contrast to the 1872-1874 Second Empire style courthouse diagonally across the street.

Born in Cumberland, Allegany County (Maryland), Bruce Price was of Washington County ancestry. His father was William Price (17 -1868), a successful Hagerstown lawyer who moved to Cumberland about 1842. William Price is believed to have erected the house at 135 West Washington Street which is now known as the Miller House and is the headquarters of the Washington County Historical Society (National Register as the Price-Miller house).

The old library building is one of three Price-designed structures in western Maryland. The present First National Bank and Emmanuel Church Parish Hall in Cumberland were also designed by him. The library building resembles an unexecuted 1902 design of the National Commercial Bank for Albany, New York, and may have been part of the source of the later design. In his dissertation on Bruce Price, Samuel Graybill noted that by the turn of the century, Price was in a period of decline unmarked by the spectacular successes at Tuxedo Park (Graybill, pp. 205-218).

Although not listed in Graybill's study, the Price authorship of this building is recorded in the minutes of the library trustees. Three entries in the ledgers (pp. 49 and 65) indicate that the Trustees paid Price nearly \$900 over a three-year period, facts which contradict a version given in a 1906 county history which says that Price donated the plans (Williams, I, 453). Samuel L. Lamkin of Hagerstown is listed in the minutes as the contractor.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Graybill, Samuel H., Jr. "Bruce Price, American Architect, 1845-1903," dissertation. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University, 1957.
Morgan, William. Notes on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
Washington County Free Library. Minutes of Trustees, 1898-1928. Hagerstown, Md.
Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md.
Williams, Thomas J.C. The History of Washington County, Maryland, 2 vols.
Hagerstown, Md.: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth, 1906 (I, 453).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY city lot 67.75 feet by 82 feet - less than One
UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	2,6,6	2,5,0	4,3,9,1	4,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

B					
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION DATE

City of Hagerstown May 17, 1977

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

City Hall (301) 731-3200

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

John N. Peace 3/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

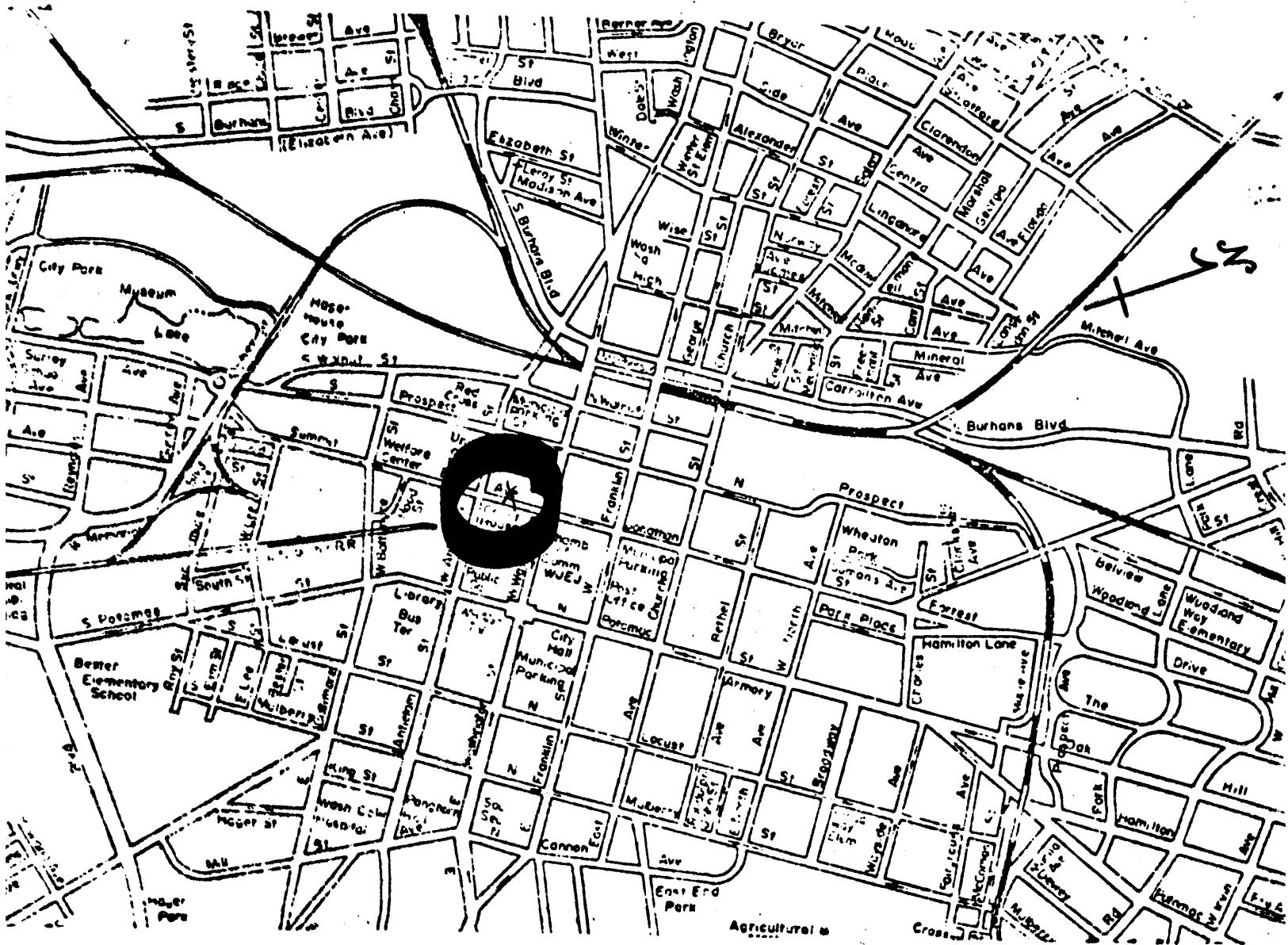
ATTEST:

William L. Borch

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

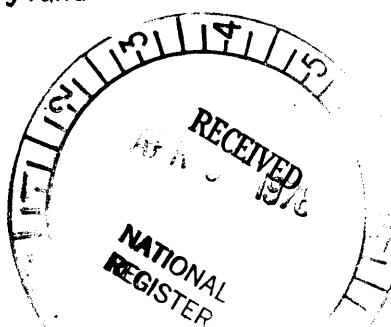
10/2/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE *Sept 15, 1978*



SITE: 21 Summit Avenue, Groh Foundation
Hagerstown
Washington County, Maryland

map:

City of Hagerstown,
Washington County, Md.
City Engineering Dept.
July, 1970
scale 1"=1200'



WA-HAG-94