

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Oakland Armory Inventory Number: G-VI-A-103

Address: 14 N. Eighth St. City: Oakland Zip Code: 21550

County: Garrett USGS Topographic Map: Oakland, Maryland Quad

Owner: State of Maryland

Tax Parcel Number: 275 Tax Map Number: 111 Tax Account ID Number: 17010417

Project: N/A Agency: Town of Oakland

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: N/A Date: N/A

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? no yes Name of district: N/A

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: See continuation sheet attached

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description

The Oakland Armory, officially called the BG Otho Holland Williams Maryland National Guard Armory, located in Oakland, Maryland, was constructed by the State of Maryland in 1953-1954. It is a two-story brick building, facing east, with a projecting central entrance façade of cast concrete slabs. Its appearance is a greatly simplified and modernized version of the series of Maryland National Guard armories constructed throughout the state between WWI and WWII. The barrel-roof, concrete block gymnasium is located behind (west) and constructed parallel to the main front section of the building. A one-story wing stands on either side of the main central section. The wing on the south side, constructed within a few years of the main building, housed the rifle range. The north wing housed a vehicle-maintenance shop and includes a two-story high section fronting north with a projecting cast concrete vehicle entrance similar to the front pedestrian entrance. Both entrances have an Art Deco style molded concrete decorative frieze. Above the vehicle (north) entrance decorative frieze is inscribed "M.N.G." The front (east) entrance has Art Deco style decorative hexagonal lighting fixtures and embedded flagstaves on either side of the central door. All windows are steel-frame casement or fixed pane windows. A series of glass block windows in the gymnasium are a recent replacement of the original steel frame windows.

The armory interior it little-changed from its original plan. The main front-central section houses the entrance hall with beige terra cotta tiled walls to a height of approximately four feet above the red terra cotta tile floor. The central hall leads to the gymnasium on the west side of the building, entered through a block of three double doors. Offices, a ticket booth, and concrete stairs leading to the second floor are located on the north and south sides of the central hall. A meeting room, located at the north end of the main building has pine paneling. The north wall includes a large stone fireplace and a pine and glass

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u>	<u>11/30/04</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>Patricia Kuntz</u>	<u>12/15/04</u>
Reviewer, NR program	Date

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

G-VI-A-103

built-in showcase. The rifle range south wing is now subdivided into office space with moveable walls. The block gymnasium has exposed steel framing in the ceiling. The north wall of the gymnasium has a vehicle entrance that leads into the maintenance shop on the north side of the building.

North of the armory building is a chain-link fenced vehicle compound with brick and concrete capped gateposts. A brick, eight-bay garage stands along the west side of the compound. This structure was built later than the armory, probably in the 1960s.

Eligibility Determination

The construction of the BG O.H. Williams Maryland National Guard Armory in Oakland, Maryland was completed in 1954 and it has this year (2004) reached its age of eligibility of 50 years. The building was not a part of the period of significant National Guard armory construction (1901-1938) cited for the thematic National Register nomination of Maryland National Guard Armories. It does not share the architectural characteristics cited, particularly the clear reference to Medieval fortifications. However, the Oakland Amory, as it is more commonly known, is a significant and very intact example of the 1950s institutional architectural style. It is perhaps representative of a second period "of increasing public concern for military preparedness,"¹ reflecting the period of the Cold War. The inclusion in the design and construction of the building of a vehicle-maintenance shop with its own prominent entrance highlights the important role that military vehicles had taken on during the intervening decades. The Oakland Armory was constructed for Company B of the 121st Engineering Battalion of the Maryland National Guard. It is likely that the eligibility of this building may merit a new survey of post-WWII armories. The building was designed by architect Laurence P. Sangston and constructed by Russell L. Hamilton, as noted on a brass plaque mounted on the main hall wall.

Prepared by: Paula S. Reed & Assoc., Inc.

Date Prepared: 18 October 2004

¹ "Maryland National Guard Armories" National Register Thematic Group nomination, Maryland Historical Trust, 1985.



Garrett County Tax Map III, parcel 275

G-VI-A-103
Oakland Armory
14 N. 8th St.
Oakland, MD
Garrett County





1997 USGS aerial view

G-VI-A-103

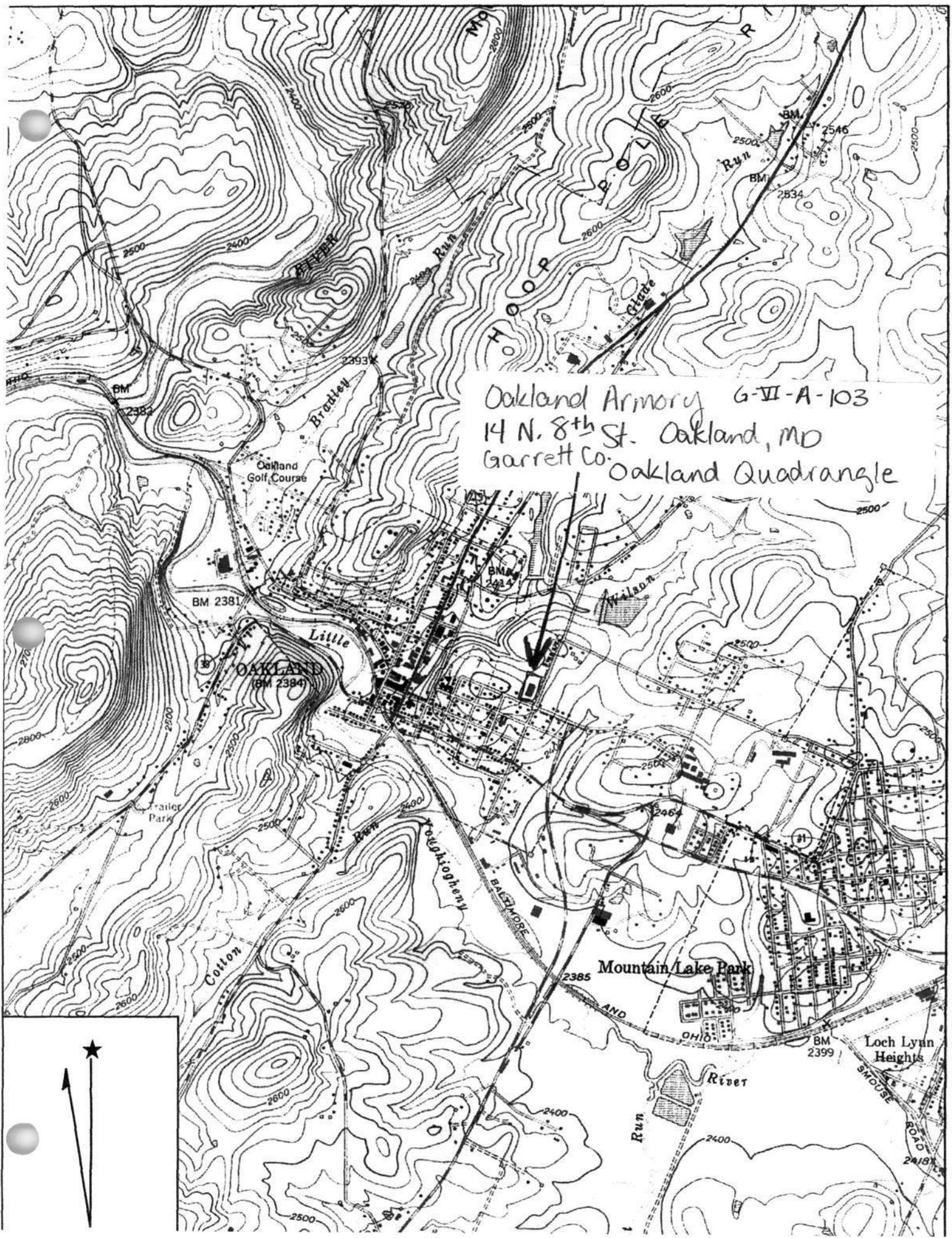
Oakland Armory

14 N. 8th St.

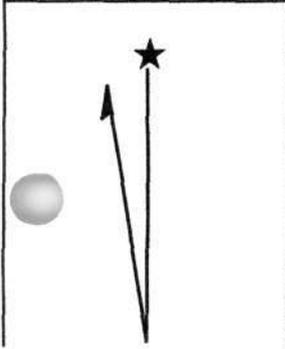
Oakland, MD

Garrett Co.





Oakland Armory G-VI-A-103
14 N. 8th St. Oakland, MD
Garrett Co. Oakland Quadrangle





COURT CASE AGEN.

Carroll
College
Community Education

G-VI-A-103

Oakland Armory
14 N. 8th St., Oakland
Garrett Co., MD

E. Wallace

10/04

MDSHPO

gymnasium interior, view SW

9/12



EXIT

G-VI - A-103

Oakland Armory
14 N. 8th St., Oakland
Garrett Co., MD

E. Wallace

10/04

MDSHPO

NE room, 1st floor interior, original pine
panelling, view toward W interior wall

10/
12



G-VI-A-103

Oakland Armory

14 N. 8th St, Oakland

Garrett Co., MD

E. Wallace

10/04

MDSHPO

NE room, 1st floor interior, stone fireplace and
pine + glass showcase, view NE

11/12



G-VI-A-103

Oakland Armory
14 N. 8th St., Oakland

Garrett Co, MD

E. Wallace'

10/04

MDSHPO

Vehicle compound + garages, view NW

12/12