ON NATL REG

WA-HAG-120
2205220501

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

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
☐ District ☒ Building	☒ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☐ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☒ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☒ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

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 ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

WA-HAG-120

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☐ 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.

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-HAG-120

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Washington County Court House

Number 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 orignial windows were pairs of single-pane sashes separated by a think vertical mullion. Side entrances of the facade and the west wall of the building were bricked up at the same time. Other alterations included replacing the slate roof with shingles 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.

Number 9. Major Bibliographical Regerences continued.

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

GPO 921-724

WA-HAG-120

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The major significance of the Washington County Court House is its architecture. Dating from 1872, it is Italiante 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

WA-HAG-120

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						OR	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 °	41 '	38 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 123 feet by 240 feet

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Washington County Historic Sites Survey

DATE
January 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN:
Hagerstown

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

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

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 3, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-HAG-120

Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

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	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Washington	043

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   - PHOTO CREDIT: Paula Stoner Dickey
   - DATE OF PHOTO: 1973
   - NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust
4. IDENTIFICATION
   - DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

north and west elevations.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Washington	043

3. MAP REFERENCE
   - SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map
   - SCALE: 1:24000
   - DATE: 1953 photorevised 1971
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-148/1441 3-1

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120

Market House } 1st bldgs in Hagerstown
Jail

Market House - Public Square 1776 -
~~[illegible]~~
combined with C.H.

Jail - in alley between Wash. & Franklin Sts.
no longer there - was log.

Hagerstown WA-WAG-120 WA-VI-3

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N. R. FIELD SHEET

HISTORICAL TRUST
1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: 120	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Washington County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street [corner of Summit Avenue]

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Washington	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District ☐ Building ☒	Public ☒	Public Acquisition:	Occupied ☒	Yes:
Site ☐ Structure ☐	Private ☐	In Process ☐	Unoccupied ☐	Restricted ☐
Object ☐	Both ☐	Being Considered ☐	Preservation work in progress ☐	Unrestricted ☒
				No: ☐

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Agricultural	☐	Government	☒	Park	☐	Transportation	☐	Comments	☐
Commercial	☐	Industrial	☐	Private Residence	☐	Other *(Specify)*	☐		
Educational	☐	Military	☐	Religious	☐				
Entertainment	☐	Museum	☐	Scientific	☐				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: city lot

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

Color 4833; 8331

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☒ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed ☐	
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered ☐ Unaltered ☒	(Check One) Moved ☐ Original Site ☒

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Washington County Courthouse in Hagerstown is a large Second Empire Revival style public building of 2 monumental storeys. Beneath the mansard roof is a symmetrically arranged faced with projecting central entrance-tower and corners, each one bay in width (the recessed bays between the corners and the central bay being twice the width of the corners). These three projections are articulated and visually strengthened at the corners by pilasters on the second storey level and by quoins at the first.

There is recent shingling on the roof [condition of building would lead one to suspect that the county may be hoping to replace this structure with something new. The loss of this building would be most lamentable but especially so if a new courthouse were built that approximated the 1960s addition on the rear, a structure which can only be called uninspired and dull.]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Pre-Columbian ☐	16th Century ☐	18th Century ☐	20th Century ☐
15th Century ☐	17th Century ☐	19th Century ☒	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1873

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal ☐	Education ☐	Political ☐	Urban Planning ☐
Prehistoric ☐	Engineering ☐	Religion/Philosophy ☐	Other *(Specify)* ☐
Historic ☐	Industry ☐	Science ☐	architecture
Agriculture ☐	Invention ☐	Sculpture ☐	
Art ☐	Landscape Architecture ☐	Social/Humanitarian ☐	
Commerce ☐	Literature ☐	Theater ☐	
Communications ☐	Military ☐	Transportation ☐	
Conservation ☐	Music ☐		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)*

1873, the year the Washington County Courthouse was built, marked the height of the Second Empire Revival in American public architecture. Alfred B. Mullet, Supervising Architect of the Treasury (hence the 'national' architect) had begun the most important American example of the style, the State, War and Navy Building in Washington, recently restored and now the Executive Office Building. A hundred years later, other examples of the style have not been so fortunate. Mullet's Post Office and Custom House in Rockland, Maine (1873) was torn down last year and his Post Office in St. Louis is in danger; as is the Post Office in Lincoln, Nebraska (which was completed by his successor, William Appleton Potter, Supervising architect for the year 1873). Thus the Washington County Courthouse is a reasonably good example of what was, that year, an official 'government' style.

[Building should be preserved !]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

WA-HAG-120

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morris Radoff's book on the courthouses of Maryland

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "
SE	° ' "	° ' "
SW	° ' "	° ' "

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds
° ' "	° ' "

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William Morgan

ORGANIZATION
Department of Art History

DATE
June 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
University of Delaware

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE
Delaware

CODE

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WA-WAG-120

HAGERSTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
1953

WA-HAG-120

OCT • 68

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, HAGERSTOWN

WA-HAG-120

WA-HAG-120 WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE