

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED G-N-A-001  
DATE ENTERED

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 & NUMBER

Third Street at Alder Street, SE corner

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
24

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

COUNTY  
Garrett

CODE  
023

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Commissioners of Garrett County

STREET & 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 & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE  
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

G-VI-A-001

| 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    |   |   |            |

## 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 surrounded 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.

| 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

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>6,3,7,1,6,0</u> | <u>4,3,6,2,9,8,0</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

TITLE

DATE

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>  |      |
| I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER |      |
|  | DATE |
| DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION                 |      |
| ATTEST:  | DATE |
| KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  |      |

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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.



Garrett County  
 Courthouse  
 USGS 7.5 minute map  
 Scale 1:24000  
 Oakland Quadrangle  
 1948

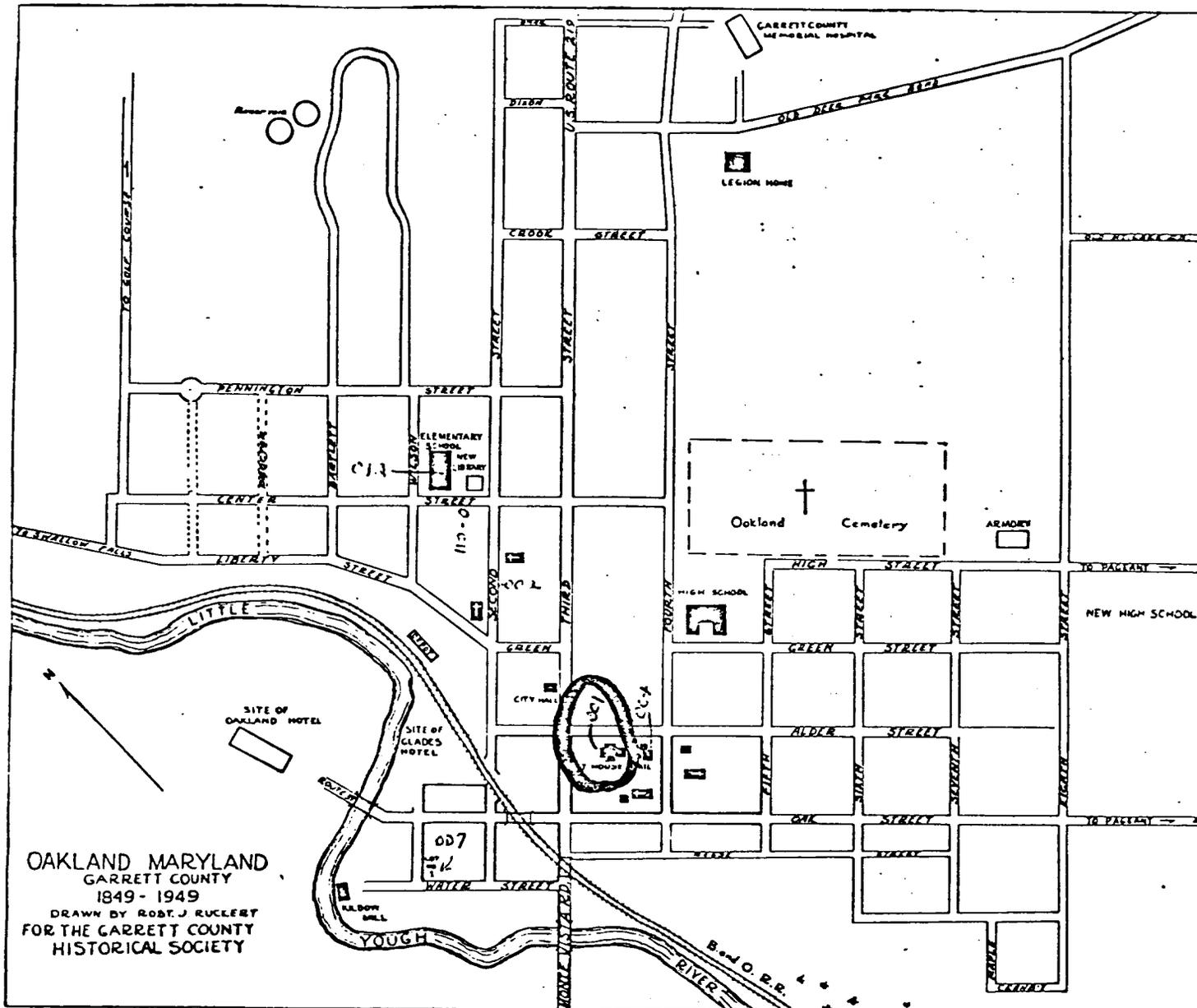
Garrett County  
 Courthouse

UTM Reference  
 17|637160|  
 4362980  
 G-VI-A-001

DEER PARK 3.8 MI.  
 WESTERNPORT 21 MI.

source: Weeks, Thekla Fundenberg. Oakland Centennial History, 1849-1949. Oakland, Md.: Sincell Printing Company, 1949.

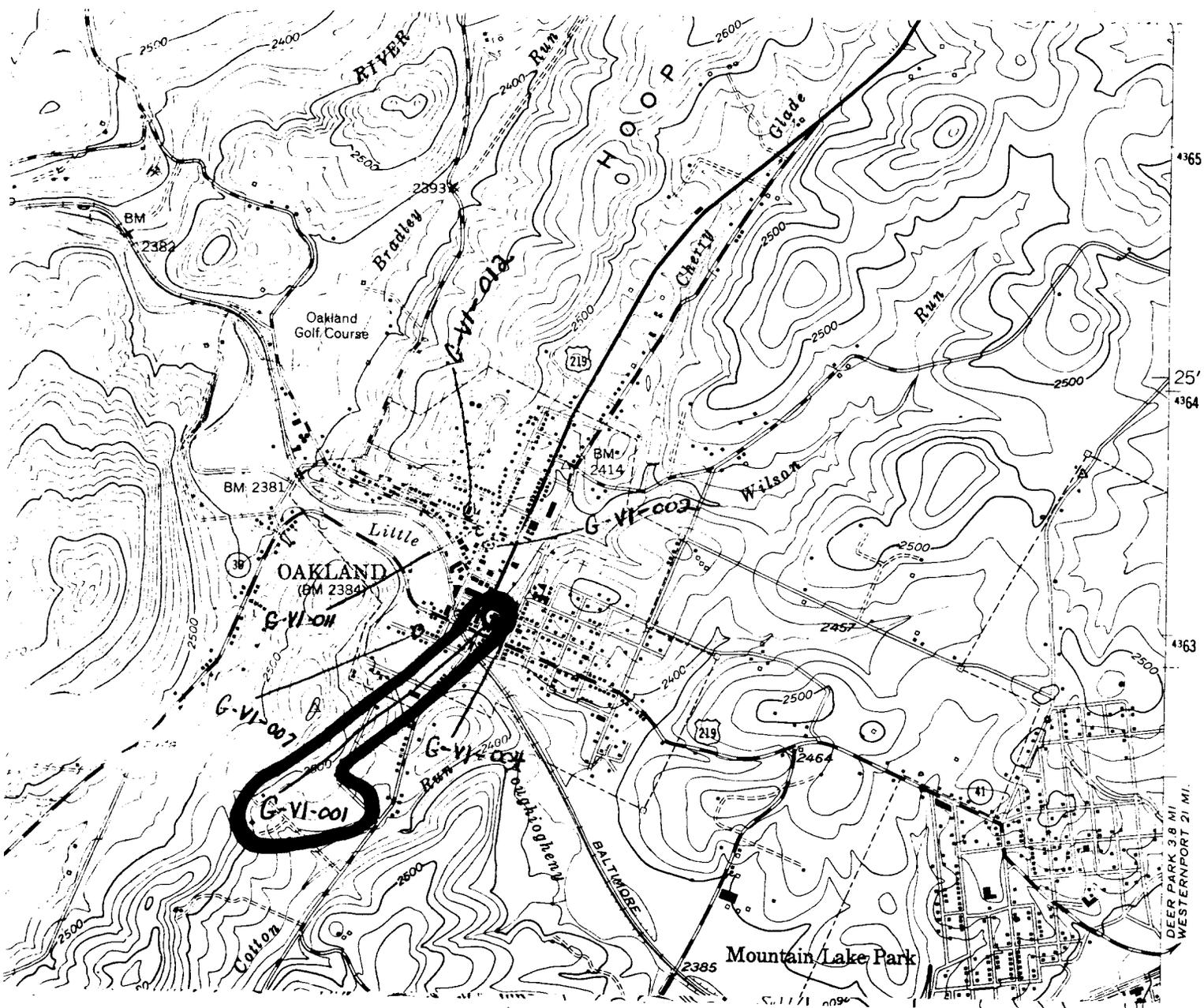
Oakland G-VI-



site #: G-VI-001

Garrett County Courthouse

Third Street at Alder Street, SE corner



Oakland, MD - WV Quad  
 U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series  
 1948  
 scale 1:24,000

-A  
 Site #: G-VI-001  
 Garrett County Courthouse  
 Third Street at Alder Street,  
 SE corner