WA-HAG-94
2205695701

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

cos NR

1 NAME

HISTORIC: old Washington County Library Building, Groh Foundation Building

AND/OR COMMON: 21 Summit Avenue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 21 Summit Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Hagerstown ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X__BUILDING(S)	X__PRIVATE	X__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X__NO	__MILITARY	X__OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Garland E. Groh Foundation, Inc. Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER: 151 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN: Hagerstown ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 440
Folio #: 649

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: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory, No. WA-6039

DATE: 1970 __FEDERAL X__STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

NOTE: One (1) Continuation Sheet attached.

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
X__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 21 Summit Avenue in Hagerstown, Washington County, the 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 masonry library structure of monumental proportions. Actually two stories high, the building appears to be one huge story from the facade or east elevation. Structurally sound, the building 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 sashes 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 original, the windows of this level are later additions. Typical of many urban buildings, the side exterior walls are plainer 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.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-1901 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bruce Price, 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 and has monumental proportions. It was used by the library until 1965 when the library 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. 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 semicircular 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.

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. This 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.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Williams, Thomas J. C. The History of Washington County, Maryland, 2 vols. Hagerstown, Md.: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth, 1906 (I, 453).

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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 the Trustees, 1898-1928. Hagerstown, Md.
Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

The property measures approximately 67.75' x 82'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

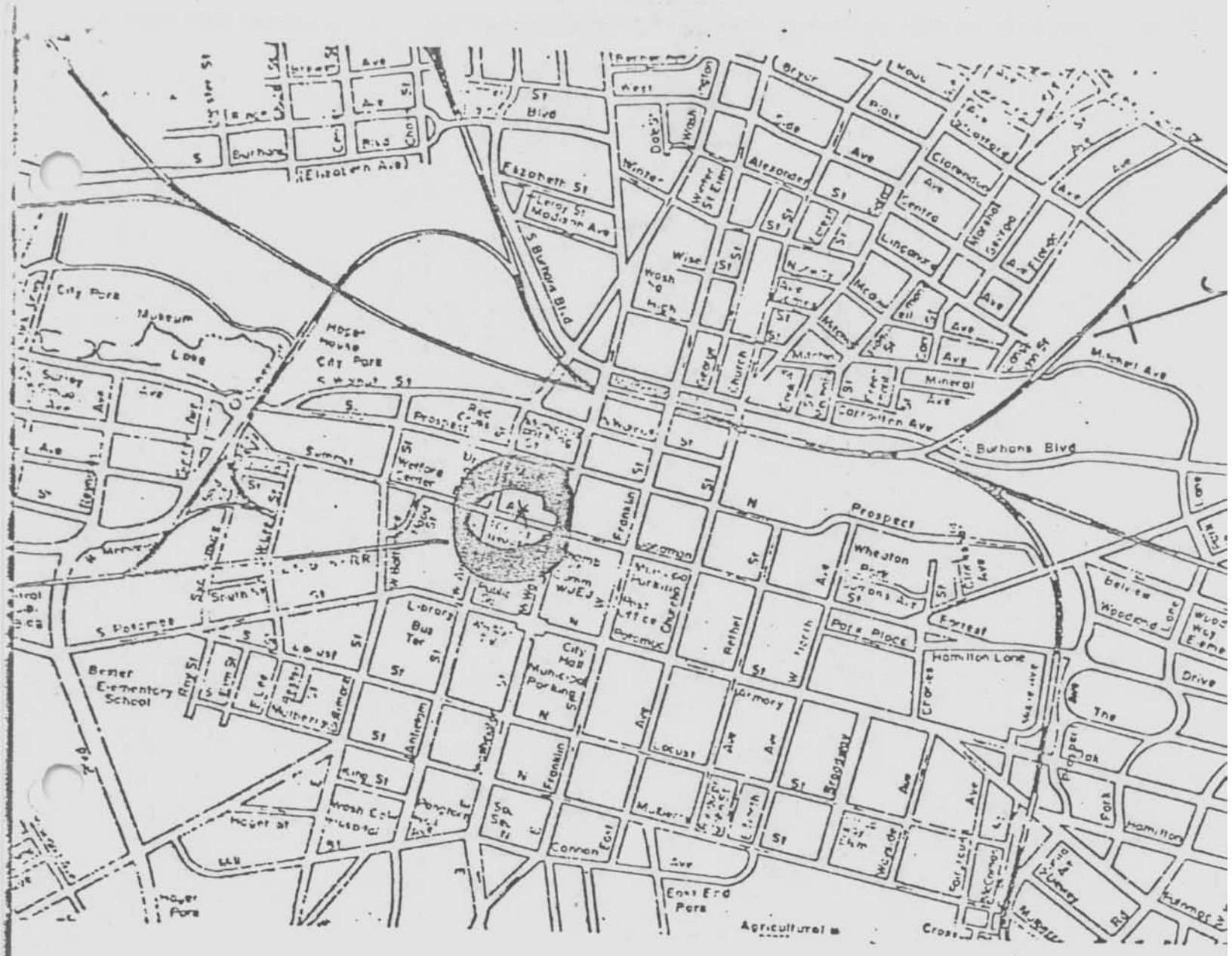
11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (mbe)
ORGANIZATION: City of Hagerstown
DATE: May 17, 1977
STREET & NUMBER: City Hall
TELEPHONE: (301) 731-3200
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown
STATE: Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



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'

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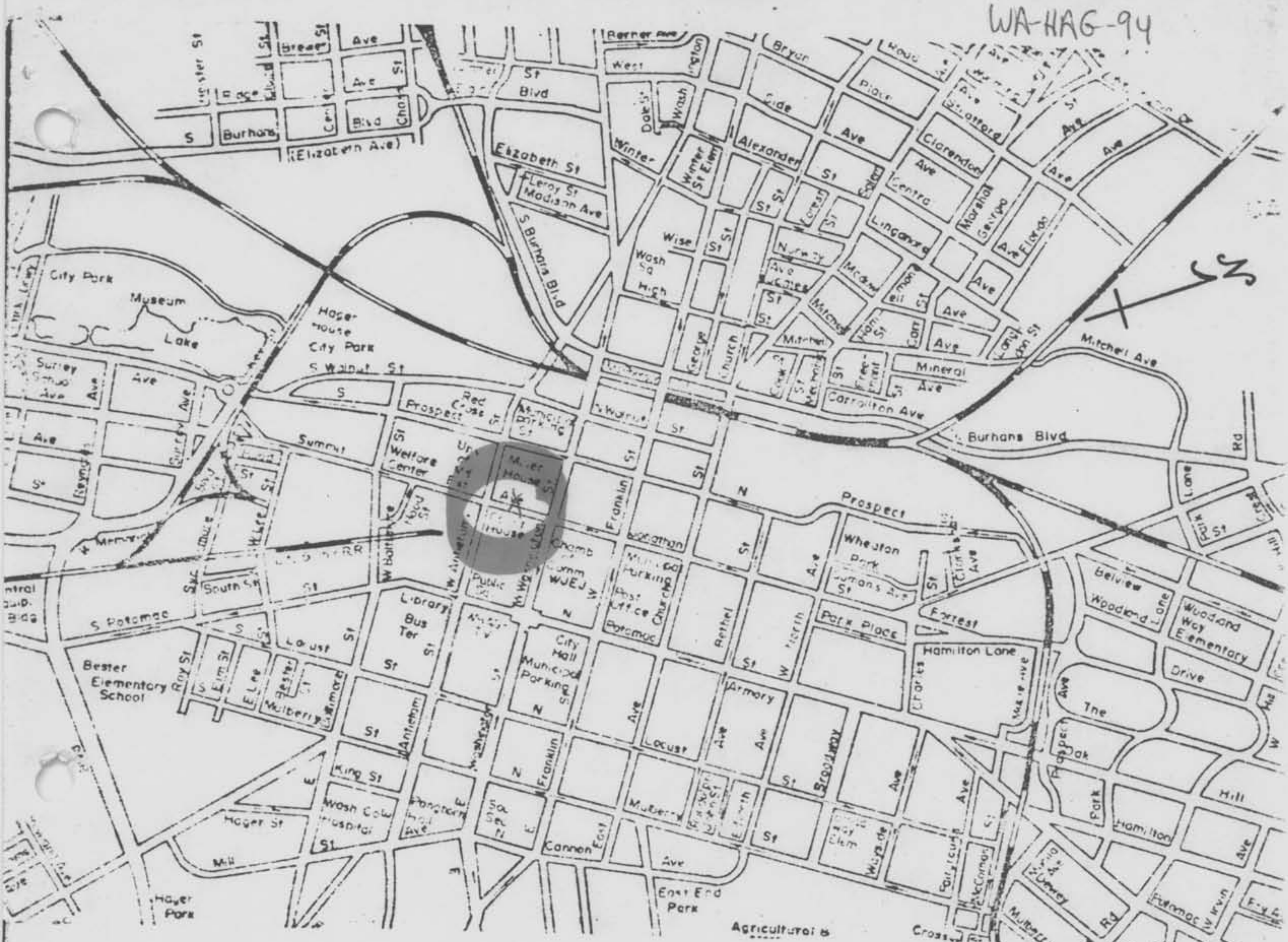

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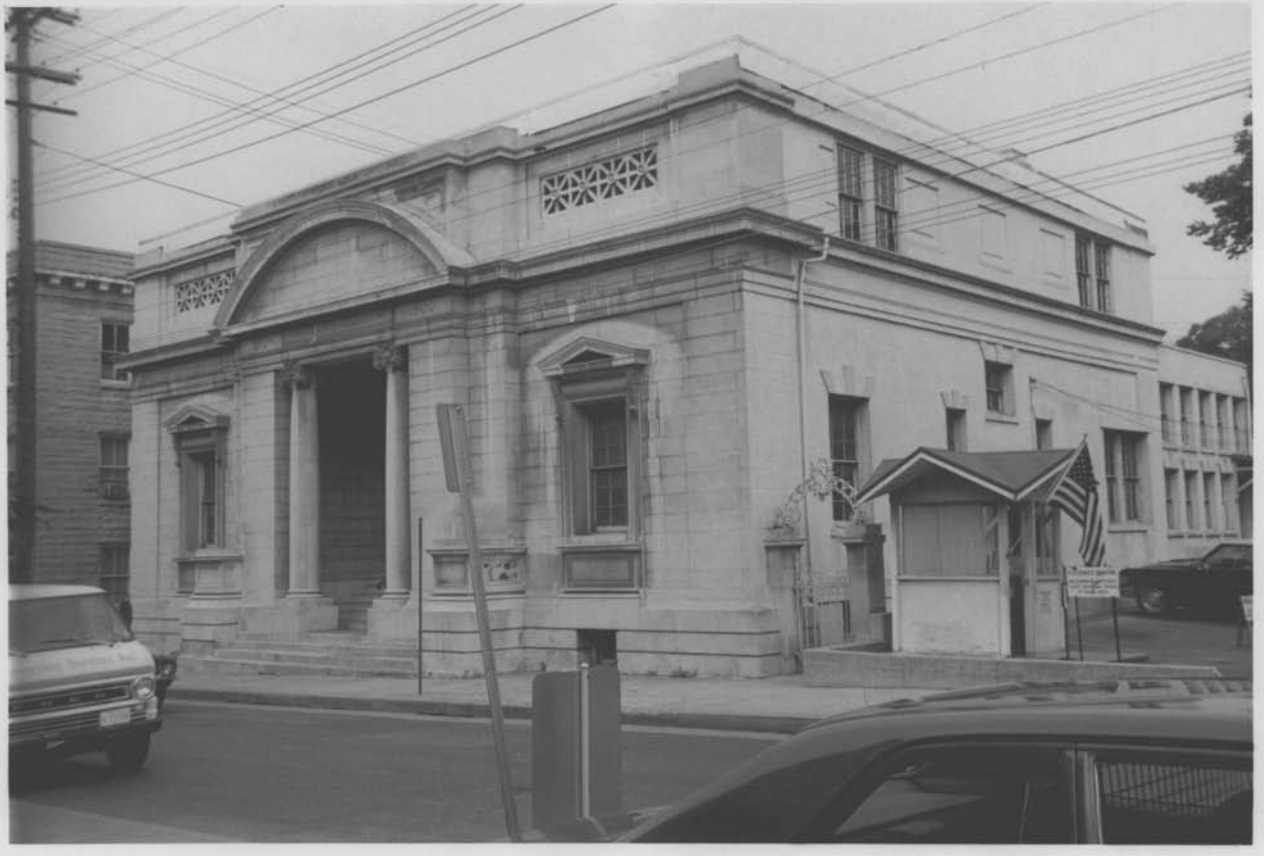

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21 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

NE view

July, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS

A·D·
OAKLAND E. GROH FOUNDATION, INC.
1900

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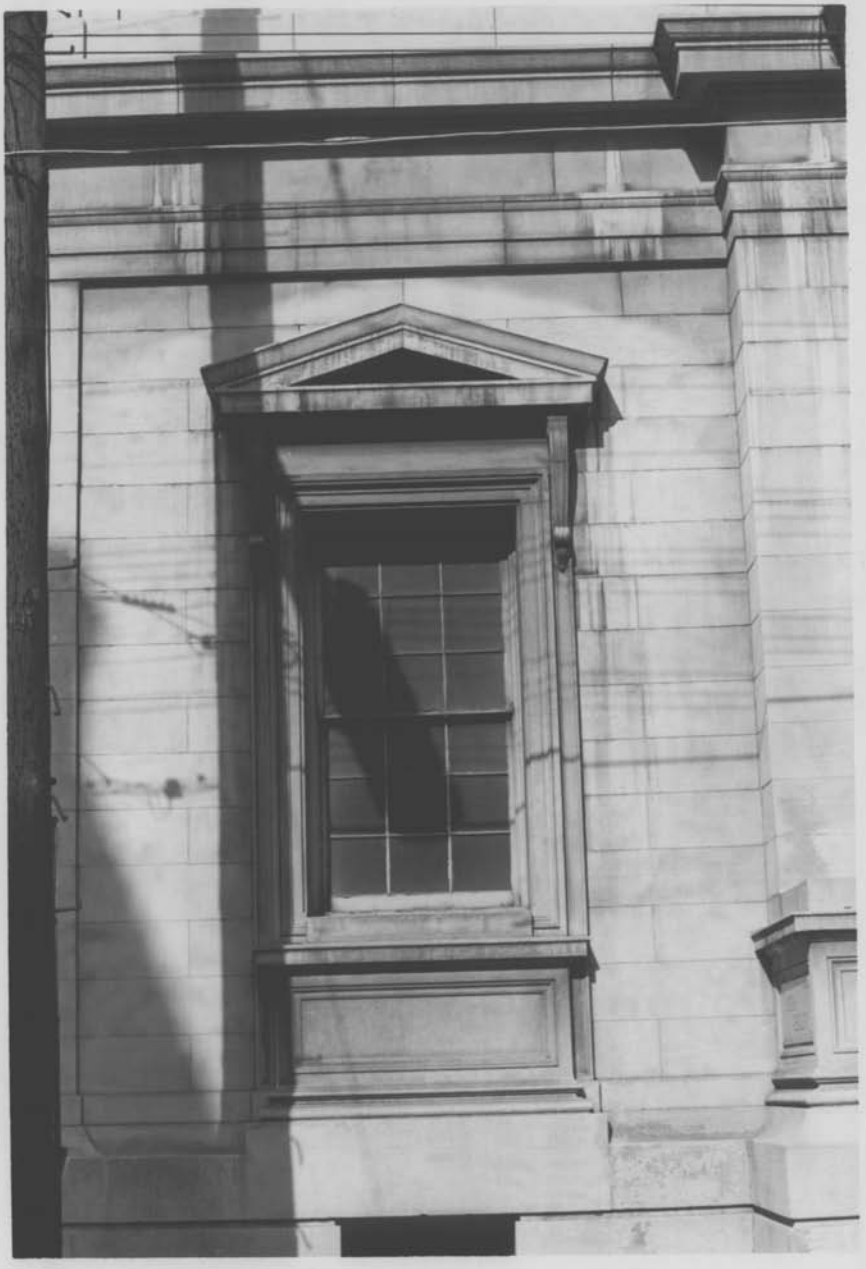
21 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

East elevation, door detail

October, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS



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21 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown
Washington Co., Md.

East elevation, window detail

October, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS

Wash. Co. Library

OLD WASHINGTON FREE LIBRARY WA-HAG-94

CAT # 164