



The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station Oakland, Maryland

The B&O Railroad Station in Oakland, Maryland is nationally recognized for its architectural beauty and state of preservation. The station's construction in Oakland had much to do with the work of John W. Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad during a period of rapid growth following the Civil War. Mr. Garrett recognized that Western Maryland could play a vital commercial role in the railroad's extension of service into West Virginia and Ohio. The train station's construction in 1884 not only provided an architectural landmark for Oakland but also made a statement about the importance that John W. Garrett placed on the town. Today, the B&O Railroad station continues to serve an important role as the newest museum in Oakland.

When the B&O reached Oakland in 1851 its primary business interest was the delivery of timber to eastern markets, but Mr. Garrett also recognized the mountain community's value as a luxury tourist destination. His unpleasant experiences with warm summer months in the eastern metropolitan area was shared by many others who welcomed the cool mountains, clean air, and luxury accommodations built by the B&O Railroad. A hotel in Oakland and a larger hospitality complex in nearby



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Deer Park attracted wealthy summer visitors. Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, and William McKinley were counted among the vacationers to the area.

Rail traffic between Oakland and eastern markets expanded as business opportunities increased. An opportunity to express the town's significance to the B&O occurred following a fire that destroyed the train station. Mr. Garrett promised that a beautiful replacement would be provided and contracted architect E. Francis Baldwin to prepare plans. Mr. Baldwin designed many buildings for the B&O Railroad, including the central roundhouse (now hosting the B&O Railroad Museum), Point of Rocks Train Station, and the B&O Warehouse at Camden Yards.

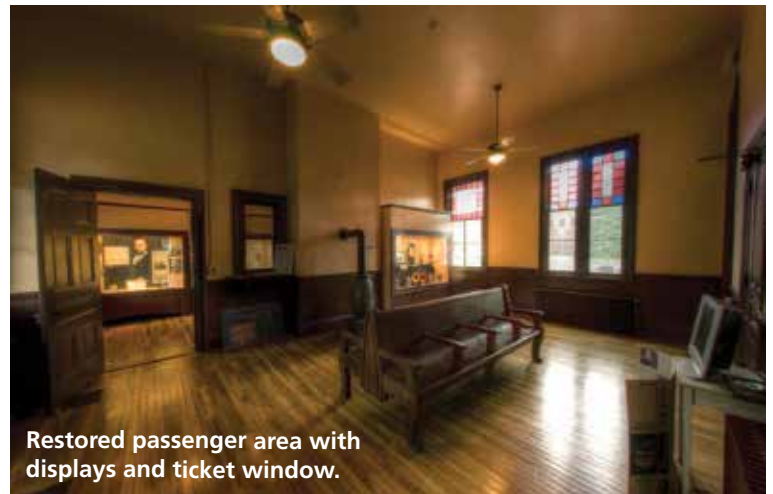
Mr. Baldwin's Queen Anne-style design for the new station was well received upon its dedication in 1884 and has continued to be appreciated over the decades. While passenger service is no longer offered at the station it continues to attract railroad enthusiasts and visitors who admire its graceful lines and historical setting.

The town of Oakland assumed ownership of the station in 1999 and began planning for a series of historically accurate renovations. The first update occurred in 2000 when the slate roof was repaired using stone quarried from the same source as the original one. A fresh coat of paint matched to the original colors and repair of stained glass windows returned the station to its former glory.

A more recent renovation was spearheaded by the Oakland Train Committee operating under the auspices of the Oakland Mayor and Town Council. The committee first consulted with officials from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum in Baltimore, Maryland for recommendations on upgrading the facility to host museum quality exhibits. Recommendations from the B&O Railroad Museum staff called for an extensive list of exterior and interior upgrades including a central air system, ultraviolet light filters, humidity controls, and enhanced heating and security systems. Support from government officials, community members, private foundations, and a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund have enabled the committee to oversee completion of most of the projects. While a formal agreement is still pending between the committee and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum that would make the train station a subsidiary of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, agreements have been reached for rotating exhibits and artifacts to be provided.



Station interior and Gift Shop.



Restored passenger area with displays and ticket window.



Track side view of station.

The station's transformation to the Oakland B&O Museum is complete and will make possible exhibits of local artifacts and educational programming. The railroad museum also complements the Garrett County Historical Society Museum and the Garrett County Museum of Transportation, all located in downtown Oakland.

The Oakland B&O Museum is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and will be open for the Autumn Glory Festival, October 9-13, 2013, and for Winterfest in February 2014.

The Oakland train station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.