

G-IV-B-175

Altamont Seventeen-Mile Grade
Bloomington/Altamont
Private

1851-1852

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Seventeen-Mile Grade is a 17 mile section of the B & O Railroad track extending from Piedmont, WV to Altamont, Md., a rise of 1626 feet per mile, and in some places it reaches 116 feet per mile.

The construction of the Seventeen-mile grade was an extraordinary engineering accomplishment in its day.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-IV-B-175
MAGT-1211295519
6

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Altamont Seventeen-Mile Grade

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

B & O Railroad tracks from Piedmont, WV to Altamont, MD

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bloomington/Altamont

X VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

CSX Corp. - Chessie Railroad

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Seventeen-Mile Grade is a 17 mile section of The B & O Railroad track extending from Piedmont, WV to Altamont, MD., a rise of 1,626 feet per mile, and in some places it reaches 116 feet per mile.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES
1851-52

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of the Seventeen-mile grade was an extraordinary engineering accomplishment in its day. In the late 1840's, several engineers under the direction of Benjamin H. Latrobe, chief engineer of the B & O, selected and designed a route across the mountainous region of Maryland and West Virginia with grades within the limits of the power of the locomotive. (Reizenstein pp. 337-38). This particular grade became the standard maximum grade for railroad construction (Schosnagle, p. 16).

It was constructed between 1851-1852, shortly after Thomas Swann was elected President of the B & O Railroad. He was well-known for his interest in the expeditious completion of the line between Cumberland and Wheeling. At the time of the seventeen-mile grade construction, the B & O Railroad was the longest railroad in America. (Reizenstein, p. 336).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reizenstein, Milton. The Economic History of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad 1827-1853. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1897.

Schlosnagle, Stephen. Garrett County - A History of Maryland's Tableland. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1978.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

9-10-81

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

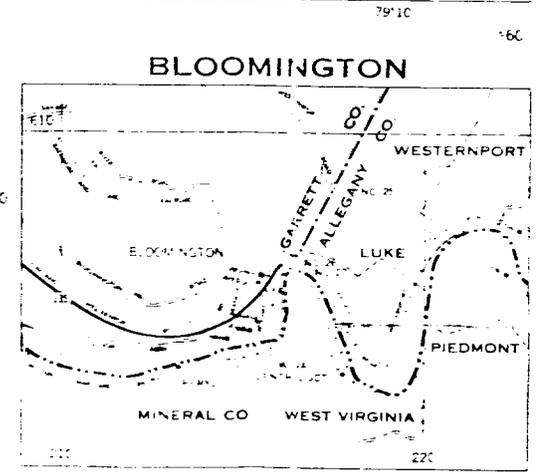
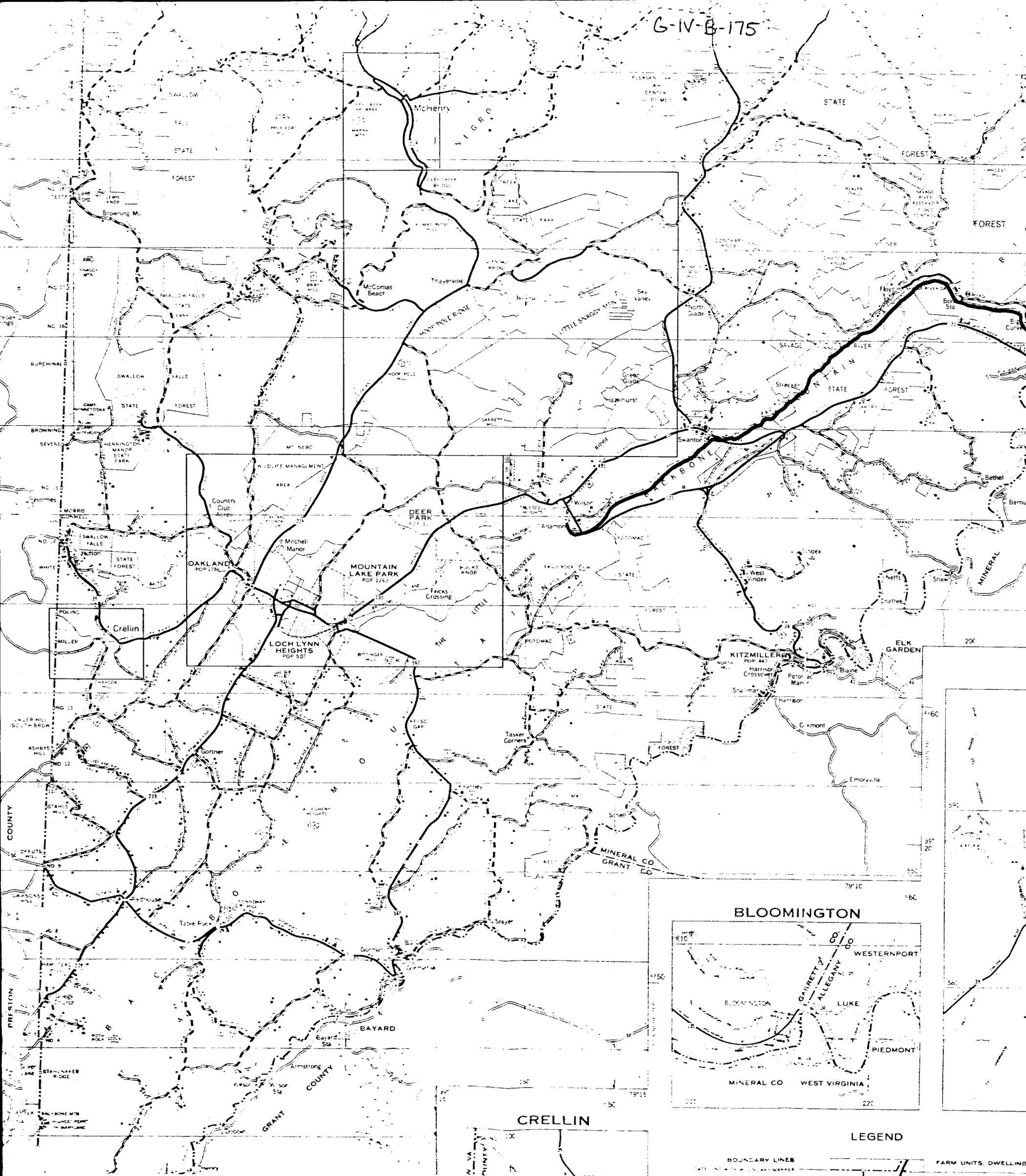
Maryland 21401

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

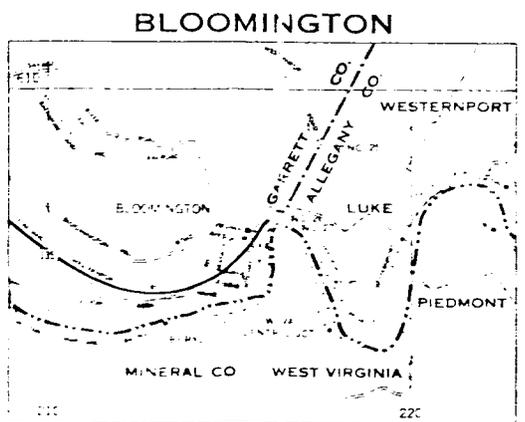
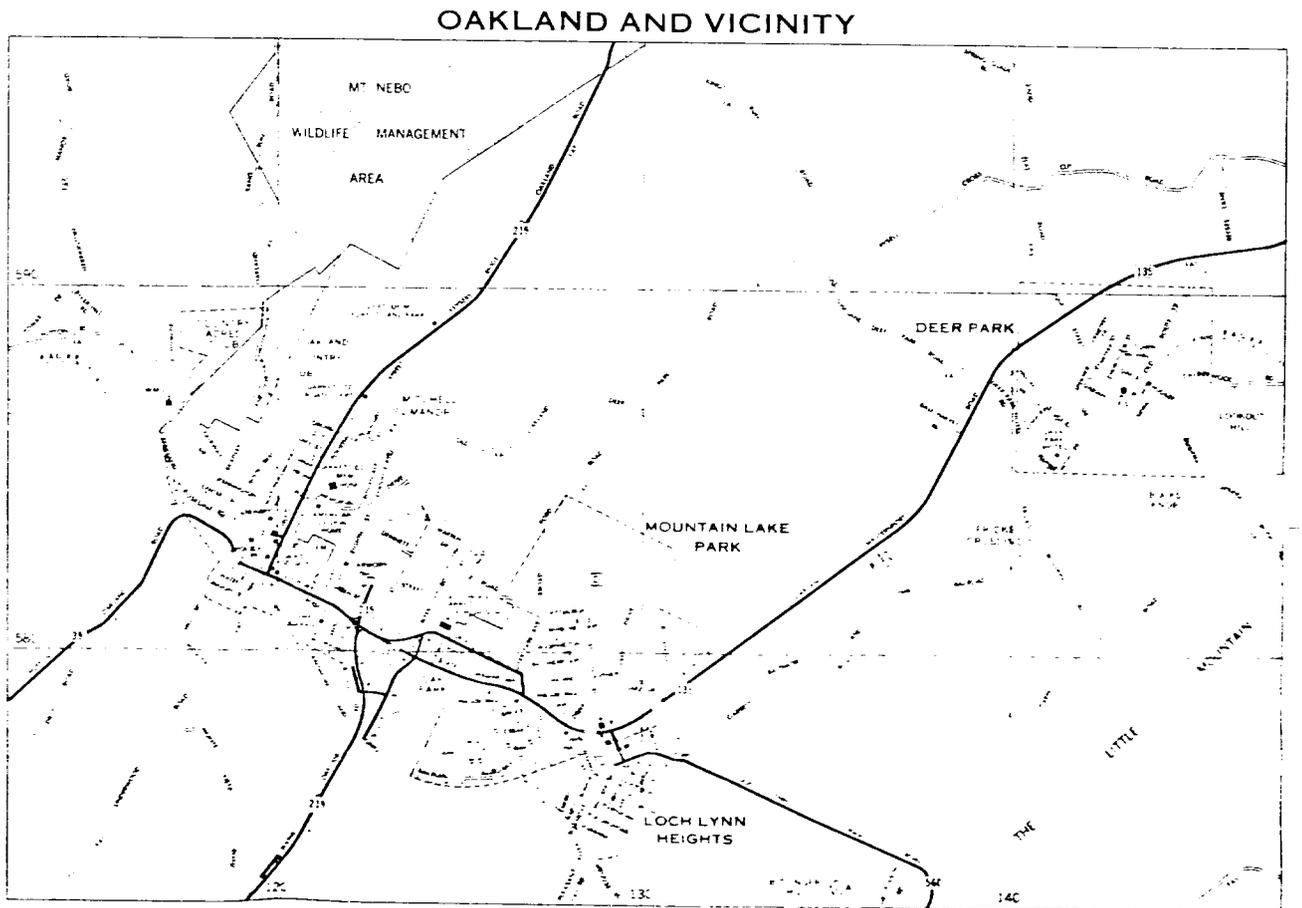
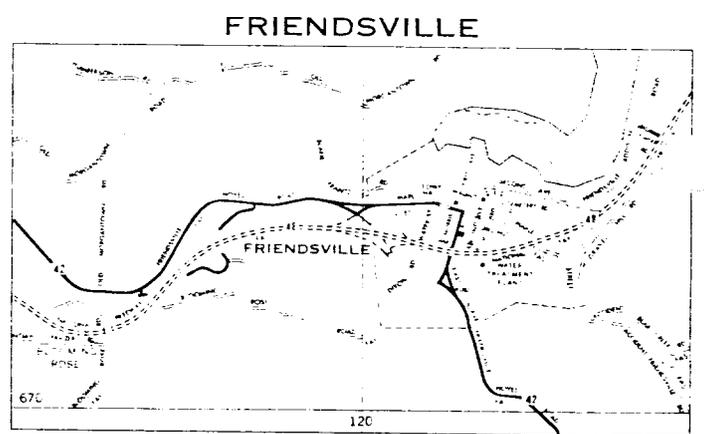
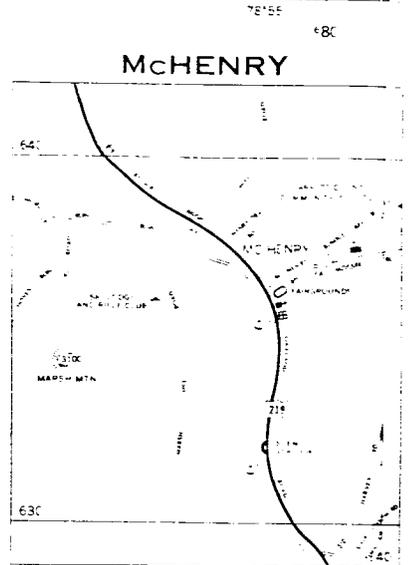
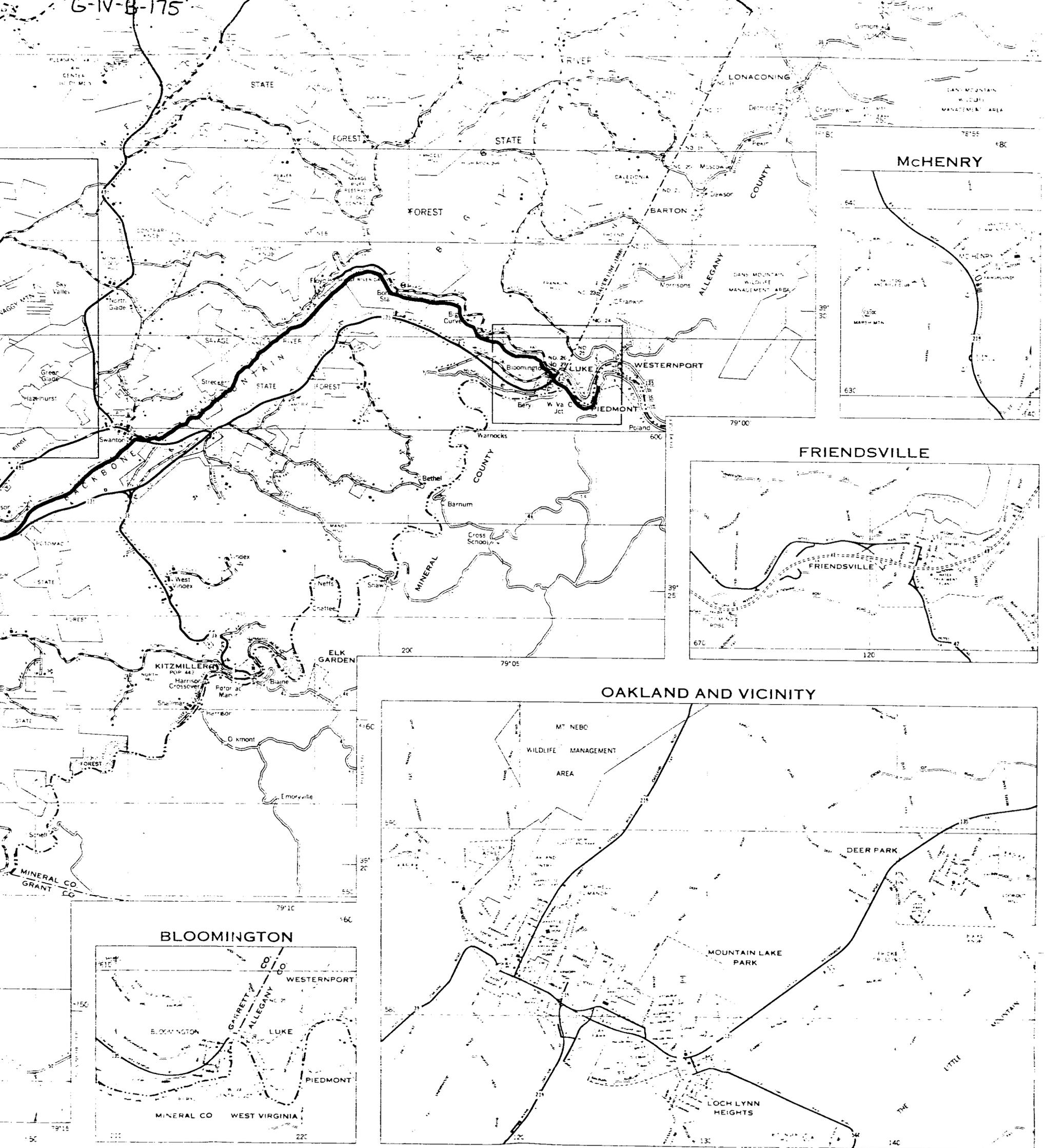
G-IV-B-175



LEGEND

BOUNDARY LINES
 FARM UNITS, DWELLING

G-IV-B-175



LEGEND

- BOUNDARY LINES
- STATE AND FEDERAL BOUNDARIES
- FARM UNITS, DWELLINGS, ETC.

G-IV-B-175 Altamont 17-Mile Grade
 (also G-I-E, G-I-C, G-III-C, G-IV-C)
 B&O Railroad tracks from Piedmont, WVA to
 Altamont, Md.