

Notes for Dover Tour
Annapolis, c. 1700

There's much to be seen in Dover that recalls our country's past. In 1683, a year after his arrival in the New World, William Penn ordered the town to be laid out, and in 1717 the historic Dover Green was laid out, as it is today, in accordance with his original plan.

The Old State House was built in 1722 and rebuilt in 1787-92. Since the rebuilding was not begun until December of 1787, we do not know if the then new Federal Constitution was ratified in this building or at temporary quarters. We'd like to think it was in this very building.

This is the second oldest State House in the Union which is still in active use. Maryland's Colonial capital at Annapolis is older. Incidentally, Nicholas Ridgely, progenitor of the family in Delaware, was the grandson of Col. Henry Ridgely, one of Annapolis' founding fathers.

As you must have noticed, facing the Old State House all around the Green, are charming old houses...most with stories of their own, all well worth hearing.

As we wander through the Old State House you will find it quiet and dignified. However, the building apparently presented a far different scene on May 4, 1792.

In 1792 the General Assembly was little more than a tenant in this building. Control of the building rested with the Levy Court of Kent County, which, in December 1787, had authorized construction of the building as replacement for an earlier Court House that had occupied the site.

Due to financial difficulties, the new building was not completed when opened for limited use about April 1, 1792. When the General Assembly held its initial sessions here on May 2, 1792, much work remained to be done and this apparently led to a quarrel between the legislators and county officials.

This quarrel became so bitter that the Kent County Sheriff, John

Clayton---with drawn sword, it is reported---demanded possession of the building (presumably so that workmen could continue with work on its interior).

Sheriff Clayton's temper was apparently matched by that of the legislators who, in high wrath, hurriedly moved themselves and their records a dozen miles north to Duck Creek Cross Roads, now Smyrna, where Tavernkeeper Thomas Hale allegedly welcomed them with open arms.

On May 4, the House of Representatives, seeing over the situation, drew up a resolution to the effect that the General Assembly should not be subjected to "the caprices of any individual in the State and that it will not be proper for them to hold their sessions in the town of Dover until the Levy Court of Kent County or some other proper authority shall appropriate to their use the chambers in the said Court House."

The State Senate---or Council as it was then known---refused to concur with the House resolution, but instead submitted a more specific and strongly worded resolution of its own.

The Council resolution proceeded to recommend to the Constitutional Convention (then sitting) that it established the meeting place of the Legislature at Duck Creek Cross Roads unless some reasonable authority of Kent County explicitly assigned to the Assembly the rooms originally intended for its use. Each chamber refused to concur with the resolution offered by the other and adjournment on May 5, 1792, left the matter still unsettled.

However, the differences between the General Assembly and the Sheriff were apparently soon resolved for the next General Assembly---the first held under the new Constitution of 1793---met in the Court House which continued as a dual purpose building until 1873 when it became solely the State House of Delaware.

In 1933, the General Assembly again left the historic old governmental building on Dover Green---this time voluntarily and peacefully.

Despite additions to the building (in 1836, 1873-74, 1895-97, in 1910 and again in 1925-26), and ever-expanding state government continued to

outgrow the space provided by the State House, and, in the early 1930's construction of the present Legislative Hall (located some two blocks behind this building) was begun. The General Assembly, the governor, lieutenant governor and the secretary of state, moved to the new building in 1933.

Today, as we tour the building, we will view plaques and portraits that serve to recall the building's historic past and, perhaps, those of you with sufficient imagination will relive momentarily those turbulent days--- 170 years ago---when enraged legislators packed belongings and records and moved Delaware's seat of government to a tavern 12 miles to the north. Just think, had a settlement not been reached we might well be celebrating Old Smyrna Days this week end.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Location: On left and right of front entrance in Rotunda

1. Bronze Tablets: Inscribed with names of governors of State of Delaware--1777 to 1955. Presidents, not governors, were heads of the state from 1777 to 1793.

Location: To left facing staircase in Rotunda

2. Marble Tablets: Inscribed with the names of distinguished Delaware Officers in the Revolution; Also members of the Convention from Delaware who framed the Constitution of the United States.

Location: To left facing staircase in Rotunda

3. Marble Tablets: Inscribed with names of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence from the State of Delaware.

Location: South Hall, East Wall

4. Delaware State Portraits:

A. Three Governors:

- 1.) Joshua Clayton: governor; last president, first governor of Delaware.
- 2.) Caesar Augustus Rodney: nephew of the Signer, distinguished statesman; negotiated early Latin American treaties.

3.)

- 3.) Thomas Francis Bayard: U.S. Senator 1869-85; Sec. of State under Cleveland; 1st U.S. Ambassador to England; opposed Civil War, called himself a Peace Demo.
- 4.) Charles Clarke Stockley: Governor

5.) Henry Clay Conrad: A state judge and historian

6.) Simeon Selby Pennewill: Governor

Location: South Hall, West Wall

B. Five Governors:

1.) Anthony Higgins: No name plate; U.S. Senator

2.) John Wood Hall: Governor

3.) Charles Robert Miller: Governor

4.) John P. Cochran: pronounced Cockran; Governor

5.) Joshua Hopkins Marvel: Governor

6.) Charles Folk: No name plate; Governor

Location: North Hall, East Wall

C. Two Governors:

1.) Samuel White: U.S. Senator

2.) Benjamin Thomas Biggs: Governor

3.) Robert John Reynolds: Governor

4.) George Read: Signer of Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; a Cecil Co., Md., lawyer.

5.) Henry Latimer: Surgeon in Continental Army; U.S. Representative and Senator

6.) Thomas McKean: Signor of the Constitution

Location: North Hall, West Wall

D. One Governor:

- 1.) Robert Fyle Robinson: Governor
- 2.) John Middleton Clayton: Sec. of State under Taylor; negotiated Clayton-Bulwer Treaty with Nicaragua, the treaty gave U.S. Ok to Latin America.
- 3.) James Ashton Bayard, the elder: (1767-1815) U.S. Senator; negotiated treaty to end the War of 1812, died soon after return to Dela. from a shipboard illness.
- 3a.) James Ashton Bayard, the younger: (1799-1880) U.S. Senator
- 4.) Thomas F. Bayard: U.S. Senator 1849-85; Sec. State under Cleveland; 1st U.S. Ambassador to Eng.; opposed Civil War, Called himself Peace Demo.

Note: Bayard, the elder married U.S. Senator Richard Bassett's daughter, their son Bayard, the younger became a U.S. Senator as had his father, and as did his son Thomas F. Bayard and his grandson, Thomas. The family remains the longest direct line of U.S. Senators in history.

This section of the State House (the North Hall) which faces the Green is the oldest part of the building...notice the window above the entrance. It is said to be an exact copy in measurement, style and etc., of one of the windows (Palladian-type) which may be seen in a market place in Dover, England.

(Retrace toward Rotunda, bearing left to Annex Hall...toward the Tax Office).

Location: Annex Hall, left Wall

E. Four Governors:

- 1.) Martin Waltham:
- 2.) William Henry H. Ross: Governor
- 3.) Presley Spruance: A member of the Delaware Constitution Convention in 1831; U.S. Senator.
- 4.) Presten Lea: Governor
- 5.) John Hann: Governor
- 6.) James Fonder: Governor

Location: Annex Hall, Right Wall

F. No Governors:

- 1.) John Wales: U.S. Senator
- 2.) Eli Saulsbury: U.S. Senator

5.

Rotunda

A. Old Bell: 1763, older than Liberty Bell; was hung here by Thomas Rodney in 1770; was used to assemble "the freeholders of Kent at the Court House in the town of Dover, to take into consideration the British Parliament in shutting up the Port of Boston;" rang out vigourously to announce the Declaration of Independence.

B. Name Plate: "Delaware," from Delaware's last Battleship, said to have been the first ship to use the gyroscope. First oil-burner battleship, built in Norfolk, Va., commissioned in 1910 in use until 1923. Ship's silver may be seen at State Miscam.

Location: Former State Library, door under steps in Rotunda.

6.

Former State Library Portraits (portraits numbered from entrance into "library" from lounge)

- 1.) Gunning Bedford Jr.: Signor of Constitution
- 2.) John Vining, the younger: Member of Continental Congress, U.S. Representative and Senator.
- 3.) John Dickinson: Dickinson Mansion; Penman of the Revolution, pseudonym, "A Pennsylvania Farmer;" Wrote Articles of Confederation; signed Constitution.
- 4.) Rear Admiral Samuel Francis duPont:
- 5.) Richard Bassett: Signed Constitution, U.S. Senator, father-in-law of James Ashton Bayard.
- 6.) Peter Stuyvesant: A governor of New Netherlands (now New York and much of coast); reclaimed Dela. for the Dutch in 1655 only to lost it to Eng., 1664.
- 7.) Nicholas Van Dyke Jr.: U.S. Senator
- 8.) William Penn: at age 18, copy, original in Independence Hall, Phila.; Governor of Pennsylvania... "Penn's Woods;" Laid out Dover Green 1683.
- 9.) John Vining; the elder: first Chief Justice of State Of Delaware
- 10.) Henry Moore Ridgely: U.S. Senator and Representative
- 11.) John Patton: Major General in Revolution, U.S. Representative

- 12.) Sir Thomas West: Lord de la Warr for whom the state was named; Virginia's first Colonial governor.
- 13.) "The Troops Leaving Dover Green": in the summer of 1776, led by Col. John Hazlett, to join the Continental forces under George Washington at Valley Forge (Col Hazlett did not return... he was ordained in Ireland, practiced medicine in Kent and commanded Delaware Regiment) This painting was done by Stanley Arthurs, a Delaware artist, in 1915 for the State of Delaware. (It is one of the Three Large Historical Paintings on the walls of this building).

(Return to Rotunda, pause at foot of stairway, for view of famous painting on stair landing...note beautiful hues.)

7. George Washington: Acquired by legislative action in 1800 as a "Memorial to the Father of our Country"--- by Denis A. Volozan.

(Proceed to landing, turning right to Rotunda, second floor)

8. Design Display: State buildings present and future

9. Famous Delaware Statesmen Portraits
Location: Second floor, South Hall, East Wall

A. Two Governors:

- 1.) James Frank Allee: U.S. Senator; Allee House on the Green.
- 2.) William Delamei Denney: Governor
- 3.) John Gillis Townsend Jr.: Governor

Location: Second floor, South Hall, South Wall

B. One Governor:

- 1.) Daniel Oren Hastings: State Judge and U.S. Senator
- 2.) Unknown :No name plate
- 3.) Peter Foster Causey: Governor
- 4.) James Rogers: Active in state affairs, was Sec. of State (Delaware); Adj. General and Attny. Gen.; Not to be confused with James Gamble Rogers, architect.

10. Supreme Court Room: Colonial architecture and appointments; decorated in 1952-53

A. Hand-carved Seal of State of Delaware, based on design of 1793, by students of the Brown Vocational School, Wilmington. Carved from a solid piece of mahogany.

D. Early American tinware used for scones (lighting) on walls.

C. Lecturn raised or lowers to suit the height of the presenting attorney to the Court.

(To sharp right of Rotunda, facing the Green, enter former Bureau of Vital Statistics...big room near Board of Health office, opens on front mall.)

11. Former Senate Chamber: This room was the Senate Chamber used as such until 1932 when Legislative Hall was completed.

A. Seal of Delaware: Remains on the wall from days when this was the Senate Chamber.

E. "The Crusaders": On the west wall is the famous painting which depicts the ravages of the World War (I) and the impelling spirit that enabled our soldiers to endure the many hardships they encountered. It is said the spirits seen in the right of the painting are those of Joan d'Arc, George Washington and Lafayette. This mural is one of the three purchased by an act of the Delaware Legislature.

(Return to Rotunda, facing north, enter the former office of the Insurance Commissioner, which is located in the front of the building).

12. Former House Chamber: This room and others in this area were the House Chambers until the body moved to Legislative Hall in 1932.

A. "The First Day of Peace": This mural represents the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox, Va., on April 9, 1865. The mural was placed in the House of Representatives in May, 1922, as a memorial to Delawareans participating in the Civil War.

B. The Artist Speaks: Stanley M. Arthurs visited the battlefield and wrote: "I visited the exact spot where this meeting of Grant and Lee occurred. The background was painted from a sketch I made at this time. In the frontline of the Army of the Potomac, which stood on the opposite side of the sunken road as shown in the painting, were Delaware troops. I think they were of the Fourth Delaware Regiment. On the hillside on the left-hand side of the painting Sheridan's Cavalry was encamped."

(IT'S OVER...YOU MADE IT...CONGRADUATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware

DELAWARE'S OLD STATE HOUSE
DOVER, DELAWARE

The Second Oldest State House
In Continuous Use In the United States

The State House of Delaware, at Dover, was built on the site of the Kent County Court House erected in 1722. By 1787 the facilities of the Old Court House were no longer adequate for the needs of both the county court and the legislature. In December of that year, the Levy Court of Kent County authorized Charles Ridgely, Eleazer McComb, and Nehemiah Tilton, the commissioners appointed to erect the new building, "to pull down the Old Court House and use the hard bricks for the foundation of the new building as there was not sufficient money for a stone foundation." Due to financial difficulties, which were solved by holding a State Lottery, the construction work was delayed and it was not until about April of 1792 that the building was opened at a cost of £2107:7:5. Three years later the General Assembly authorized the completion of the battlements, covering the roof with copper, erection of stone steps, paving in front of the building, the erection of seats in both houses of the Legislature, and paying a share of painting the building, all of which was accomplished at a cost of £404:4:4½.

Not until 1836 were other additions made to the State House. In that year a two-story and basement addition, forty by fifty feet, was erected at a cost of nearly three thousand dollars. These improvements provided an executive chamber, an office for the Secretary of State, and a library on the lower floor; committee rooms and an enlarged House Chamber on the second floor.

As the years passed the Kent County Court House continued to be shared as a meeting place with the Legislature. The development of a more complex system of government required more office space for the growing departments. Following a conference with the Levy Court, relative to purchasing the State House from them, the Legislature in April of 1873 purchased the building for fifteen thousand dollars and appropriated additional funds for remodeling and equipping it. The firm of Manners, Fisher and Company completed the remodeling at a cost of about eight thousand dollars in August of 1874 and in December of that year all was in readiness for the inaugural ceremony of Governor John P. Cochran, on January 19, 1875. The office arrangement at that time provided

for the Governor's office on the north side of the main building, the Secretary of State's office on the north side, and the Library in the rear, while the offices of the State Treasurer and the Auditor were on the right and left of the main entrance.

An addition of forty feet was added during the years 1895-1897 to the east wing previously built in 1836. This new extension provided larger quarters for the Governor, the Legislature, and other State offices.

Aside from necessary repairs to the building, nothing was changed again until 1910 when the south or library wing was built, at a cost of sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars. This fireproof wing greatly increased office space for the State departments and provided means for the preservation of the records. At the same time the original portion of the State House was restored as it had been prior to 1874, when many of its fine architectural features were erased and a mansard roof was added. It is interesting that the money for the restoration came from the Federal Government as the interest on the money advanced by Delaware during the War of 1812.

The next change to the State House was in 1925-1926 when the three-story fireproof annex was built connecting with the east side of the old building. This was built and equipped from an appropriation of \$150,000. It accommodated the State Bank Commissioner, State Highway Department, the State Board of Education, the State Board of Health, the Chancellor, and the State School Tax Commissioner. Thereafter, additional space for government operations has been provided by separate buildings, most of them arranged in a Capitol Complex, with the Old State House and Legislative Hall as its focal points. A few are at scattered sites. In 1933, when Legislative Hall was opened, the chambers and anterooms of the Legislature were changed to offices. At the same time the offices of the Governor and the Secretary of State were moved to the new building. Another rearrangement of offices was made in the spring of 1939 when the Secretary of State's office, the Corporation and Franchise Tax Departments, and the State Archives were moved from the State House to the new Hall of Records.

During 1967 and 1968 the south or library wing of the Old State House, built in 1910, was extensively remodelled at a cost of three hundred ninety thousand dollars. The main section was converted to a Supreme Court Building, occupied in September, 1968. The rotunda and pillared porch, which had connected the south wing with the original structure, were removed. The former State Library reading room behind these was retained as the present one-story, recessed portion of the building.

THE DELAWARE STATE HOUSE

by L. deValinger, Jr. 11/30/32

The State House at Dover, the ^{second} oldest in the Country still in use as such, was built on the site of the Kent County Court House erected in 1722. In December of 1787, the Levy Court of Kent County authorized Charles Ridgely, Eleazer McComb and Nehemiah Tilton, the Commissioners appointed to erect the new building, to pull down the old Court House and use the hard bricks for the foundation of the new building as there was not sufficient money for a stone foundation. This building was completed about April of 1792, at a cost of £2107:7:5. Contrary to tradition, the bricks used in this building were manufactured near Dover and at Wilmington as is shown in the bills of materials purchased.

On February 9, 1795, the General Assembly authorized the placing of copper on part of the roof, completion of the battlements, the erection of stone steps, paving in front of the building, the erection of seats in both houses of the Legislature and to share in the painting of the building, which was accomplished at a cost of £404:4:4 1/2, under the supervision of Robert Clark and King Dougall. Robert Clark in his report of January 5, 1796, states that King Dougall refused to serve and the whole business fell upon Clark.

Charles Marim, Thomas Davis and William Herdman were appointed January 27, 1835, to a legislative committee with the intention of determining the expediency of enlarging the Assembly chambers and providing a room for the library. A favorable report was returned and in 1836 a two-story and basement addition, forty by fifty feet, was erected at a cost of about three thousand dollars. These improvements provided an executive chamber, secretary's office, and library on the lower floor and committee rooms on the upper floor in addition to enlarging the House Chamber.

From the time the Legislature was moved to Dover from New Castle, pursuant of an act passed October 28, 1779, Kent County shared its quarters with the Legislature. The building was so crowded that it was necessary to rent a house near the Green to provide quarters for the Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills. At another time the records of the Deeds Office were kept in a locked box in the hall of the State House. In 1792, the Constitutional Convention met at the State House, but as the Legislature and the Levy Court were both in session, the Convention adjourned to the Presbyterian Church. The use of the same building by the State and the County continued until the Legislature appointed a Committee on Public Buildings in 1873, which reported that it was for the best interests of the State and of Kent County that the title of the building should be vested in the State, and then conferred with the Levy Court of Kent County to discuss the terms of purchase. On April 3, 1873, the Legislature passed an act appropriating fifteen thousand dollars, which was the figure set by the Levy Court, which sum was to be used for the erection of a new Kent County building. This same act provided for an additional appropriation of twenty thousand dollars to be used for the purchase and rearrangement of the building so that it would be suitable for transacting the State's business. The commissioners appointed to superintend the rearrangement of the building were:- William M. Shakespeare, C. C. Stockley, Leander F. Riddle, Lewis Thompson, Hugh Martin and John Van Gasken. In August of 1874, Manners, Fisher & Company completed the remodeling at a cost of about eight thousand dollars, and in December of the same year the new furnishings were in place and

ready for the official inauguration ceremony of Governor John P. Cochran, on January 19, 1875. According to the office arrangement at that time the Governor was on the north side of the main building, the Secretary of State's office in the south, and the Library in the rear, while the offices of the State Treasurer and the Auditor were on the right and left of the main entrance.

A number of improvements were made to the State House beginning in 1895. By an act of Legislature of that year, a committee was appointed to superintend the construction of an addition to the State Library, by extending the east wing of the building forty feet; the cost not to exceed ten thousand dollars. This extension was finished by the following session of the Legislature, and in 1897, a committee was appointed "to make necessary changes, improvements and alterations in the interior arrangement of the State House and repairs to the same," at a cost not exceeding eight thousand dollars. It was necessary at the next session of the Legislature to authorize an additional appropriation of \$4,467.19 to pay the balance due on the work begun the previous year. Another act of Legislature made in 1897, provided for repairing the roof, repainting the building, and refurnishing its different offices and halls, at a cost not exceeding three thousand dollars. Upon the completion of this work, the Legislature passed, on June 1, 1898, an act "assigning the rooms in the State House to certain public officers." In accordance with this act the second and third floors were reserved for the exclusive use of the Legislature, the two rooms at the northwest corner for the Governor, the room on the north side adjoining the Governor's offices to the State Treasurer, the three rooms and fire-proof vault at the

southwest corner to the Secretary of State, the room on the south side adjoining the Secretary of State's offices to the Auditor of Accounts, the next room on the south side adjoining the Auditor of Accounts was assigned to the Judiciary of the State, the room on the south side adjoining the Judiciary Chamber and to the east was reserved for the State Librarian, and the east wing, as extended, was for the State Library.

This arrangement continued until 1910, when, pursuant to an act of the Legislature, the Library, ^{or south} wing was completed. This act, which was approved April 5, 1909, appointed a commission composed of Simeon S. Pennewill, Preston Lea, Thomas M. Monaghan, Alexander P. Corbit, Alvin B. Connor, Ebe W. Tunnel, Timothy E. Townsend, James F. Lafferty and Thomas O. Cooper to supervise the erection of this addition. The sum of sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars was appropriated for this fireproof administration and library addition and it was to be completed by January 1, 1911.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF OLD STATE HOUSE

Books

Scharf II History of Delaware, J. Thomas Scharf

- p. 1032 - 1722 - A courthouse built on present State House site.
- ibid 1753 - "public offices" paid for.
- ibid March 29, 1775 - Court House lot, and Lots #27 and 30 vested in Trustees.
- ibid December 14, 1776 - Mr. Rodney, as one of the commissioners for building the Court House, charged with \$800 by County Treasurer.
- ibid February 23, 1779 - John Sullen paid 500 for repairs to court house.
- ibid May 12, 1777 - Dover made capitol.
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- p. 1033 - 1787-88 - Commissioners appointed to prepare a plan for new Court House, General Assembly requesting accommodations there.
- May 28, 1788 - Commissioners agree to Assembly request and ask an appropriation.
- June 2, 1788 - Memorial refused because of lack of funds.
- June 5, 1788 - Moneys from marriage and tavern licenses applied to completion of court house.
- July 20, 1791 - Lottery authorized, proceeds to be applied to "fitting up and preparing chambers in the new Court House.... for the accommodation and reception of the General Assembly..." Office in the south-east corner also for legislative use. Registers office, N.W. corner; Register in Chancery, N.E. corner; Prothonatary, s.w., and Recorder, s.e. Courts in the intervening space. Legislative chambers on second floor.
- January 17, 1792 - Office at s.e. corner to be prepared for Auditor of Accounts.
- May 3, 1792 - Brief move to Smyrna in course of quarrel over access to Assembly's rooms in the court house, needed for workmen.
- January 23, 1794 - Levy Court petition of the legislature for reimbursement of cost of fitting up the Court House for the use of the Assembly.
- February 9, 1795.- Legislature authorized a copper roof, completion of battlements, erection of stone steps, and painting.
- January 27, 1835 - committee appointed re enlarging the Assembly chambers and providing a library.
- ...1836 - Two-story and basement addition, 40 ft. x 50 ft. providing executive chamber, secretary's office, and library on main floor, committee rooms above.
- April 3, 1873 - State purchases County title; preamble of enabling act cites poor condition of the buildings thereon.
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- p. 1034 - August, 1874 - contract of Manners, Fisher & Co., for reconstruction completed.
- December, 1874 - Refurnishing completed; Governor's Room in north of the main building, Secretary of State in south, library in rear, Treasurer and Auditor on right and left of main entrance.

Conrad II, pp. 587-589 History of the State of Delaware
Summary of same facts, almost in same order, and often in
similar wording.

Sevan II, pp. 842 - summary of Scharf's data with nothing additional.

Official Insignia Of Delaware

- 1722 - Previous court house on site built.
- 1787, December - Commissioners authorized to pull down the old court house to get hard brick for foundation.
- c. April, 1792 - Occupied; total cost 2107:7:5.
- 1795 - battlements - copper sheathing roof, stone steps, paving in front of building, erection of seats in both houses of legislature, and a share of the painting, provided for at a total cost of 404:4:4 1/2
- 1836 - Two-story and basement addition, 40 ft. x 50 ft. costing about 5,000.00, provided executive chamber, office for Secretary of State, library (main floor) and committee rooms and enlarged House Chamber above.
- 1873, April - Purchased by State at \$15,000.
- 1874, August - Remodelling completed by Manners, Fisher & Co. Mansard roof substituted.
- 1874, December - Refurnishing completed; office arrangement as cited in
- 1895-97 - ^{Scharf} East wing extended 40 feet, accommodating Governor, Legislature and other officers more adequately
- 1910 - South (Library) wing erected; exterior of original section restored to pre-1874 appearance.
- 1925-26 - Three-story annex built
- 1933 - Rearrangement of offices (unspecified)
- 1939 - Further rearrangement.

A Calendar of Ridgely Family Letters

- Vol. I, p. 305, June 17, 1797: a Quaker Meeting, sufficiently crowded to be uncomfortable, recently held in the State House, p. 290 alludes to death of Charles Ridgely following an accident at the Court House (Sept. 20, 1788) [See also Vit. Stat. Vol. 87, p. 194].
- Vol. II, p. 197 - Funeral sermon of Dr. Robert Wiltbank preached at State House (mentioned in letter of Jan. 23, 25, 1815).
 - p. 283 - Committee of young girls appointed to furnish music and decorations for Independence Day-June 21, 1831;
 - p. 288 - a speaker mentioned- c. Jan. 1833.
- Vol. III - p. 150 - allusion to ceremonies at reinterment of Col. Haslet - June 27, June 29, 1841 [two letters]
 - p. 179 - 4th of July plans - July 2, c. 1846.

General Reference #62

"The Delaware State House", by Leon deValinger, Jr., pub. in Daughters Of The American Revolution Magazine, December 1934.

Second oldest still in use as a State House.

1722 - Predecessor erected.

December, 1787 - Named Commissioners empowered to raze building and salvage hard brick for foundation of new structure.

c. April, 1792 - completed; bricks manufactured near Dover and at Wilmington.

February 9, 1795 - General Assembly authorized placing copper on part of roof; completing battlement; erecting stone steps, paving in front of building, erection of seats in both chambers, and sharing painting costs. 404/4/4 1/2

January 27, 1835 - Committee, appointed re enlarging Assembly chambers and adding Library [Named].

1836 - Two-story and basement addition 40 ft. x 50 ft. - c. \$3,000
Provided executive chamber, secretary's office, library [1st floor]; committee rooms and enlarged House chamber above.

April 3, 1873 - \$20,000 appropriated for purchase of site and rearrangement of building

August, 1874 - Completed remodelling (Manners, Fisher & Co.);

December, 1874 - Refurnishing completed.

1895 - East wing extended forty feet; (\$10,000)

June 1, 1898 - Rooms reassigned by law: 2nd & 3rd floors for Assembly only; two rooms at n.w. corner for Governors; adjacent room, Treasurer; three rooms and fireproof vault at s.w. corner for Secretary of State; adjacent room on south to Auditor; next, Judiciary Chamber; east wing as extended for State Librarian and the Library.

Transcript [typed] of the Report of the Commissioners for Building a Court House, dated December 19, 1787. This alludes to a contract for brick already let; an account of receipts and expenditures tendered; recommendation for razing the Court House and office building to obtain the hard brick for the foundations of the new; in addition to the "boards and plank charged in the Account rendered, the Commissioners have contracted for Sixteen thousand feet more of different kinds now in seasoning to be delivered at the forest landing in April next, which, with what is already provided, they presume will be sufficient for the work."; Scantling still to be ordered; lime to be ordered for early spring;

* "The Commissioners now submit a plan for the New Court House, sixty feet in front and forty feet in depth (exclusive of the Bow window) to which doubtless some improvements may be made. If [hiatus in original] the building were feet long it would better suit the purpose for which it is designed, as the rooms intended for the Sessions of the two branches of the Legislature would then admit of Galleries for an audience when the doors were permitted to be open."

Certified manuscript copy, made April 16, 1873, of "An Act to provide for the acquisition of the entire title to the State Capitol and for repairing the same and for other purposes."

Petition for appointment of a trustee competent to pass title to the lot to the State of Delaware.

Ratification by the Levy Court.

Accounts, State House Committee, 1835-1836. Names several of the craftsmen and indicates local origin of the bricks used in this first addition.

Report of the Commissioners under the Act.. "to provide suitable rooms for the legislature of this State," June 15, [1836].

"They have erected a building 40 feet by 33 feet in the clear, two stories high, with a square roof at right angles with and joined to the roof of the Court House. The library room and secretary's office, on the first floor, are ready for the plaisterer; and the Representatives chamber, above, can be finished except the plaistering in two weeks... and they believe that for either workmanship or material it will compare favorably with the old building of which it forms a part" Contracts were let on bid. "The bricks were made and burned by the Commissioners by which a considerable saving was effected in this important item." A further appropriation for furnishing is requested.

Report of the Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Court House Commissioners - February 13, 1837.

Accounts approved and work commended, Recommends that the balance of \$73.81 and a new appropriation of \$316.19 be used for "completing the improvements in the Library, for blinds for the Hall and pavement, etc."

Report of the Commissioners to the General Assembly, February 5, 1839.

In accordance with a joint resolution of February 18, 1837, \$390.00 was made available for "completing improvements, procuring blinds, curtains to pictures, etc. the sum, except for \$15.36, has been expended in purchases from Sipple and Pennewill; Pennewill, Clarke and Company and S. M. Harrington. Items not inventoried. Asks final audit. - (S.M. Harrington, C. H. Sipple, W. K. Lockwood)

Account, 1762, Kent County to John Clayton "For Sundry Disbursements in repairing the Court House." Itemized.



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

DR. RONALD M. FINCH
DIRECTOR

REPORT ON THE OLD STATE HOUSE RESTORATION

Prepared for the Daughters of the American Revolution Convention, March 1, 1974

THE OLD STATE HOUSE: A BRIEF HISTORY

Delaware's Old State House was built between 1787 and 1792, near the site of an earlier Kent County Court House on the east side of the public square. The building was designed by Alexander Givan and built by Delaware and Philadelphia craftsmen. The structure originally contained both county and state offices, legislative chambers and a courtroom. Distinguishing exterior features included a half-octagonal rear bay and a flat-topped copper-sheathed roof. Inside, four massive wooden columns dominated the first-floor courtroom. A large staircase in the front of the building led to a passageway and galleries on the second story. An enclosed stair served the attic.

In 1835, a wing was added to the rear, expanding the courtroom and providing more office space and a larger chamber for the House of Representatives. When the county moved to a new courthouse in 1873, the State House was completely remodelled. The original roof was removed, the courtroom was divided into offices, and all the windows were altered. A large brick tower was built on the front, and a new third story was added under the mansard roof. About twenty years later, another wing was added to the rear.

Between 1909 and 1912, the State House was again remodelled. The Victorian exterior was replaced with a Georgian facade and roof that resembled the original. The Victorian interior trim, plaster and flooring remained. A new wing was added to the south. Again in 1925, the interior was redecorated and still another wing was added to the rear. After the legislature moved to Legislative Hall in 1933, the State House was again remodelled to serve as an office building. In 1968, the south wing was renovated. When state offices moved to the Townsend Building in 1972, restoration work began.

RESTORATION RESEARCH

The architectural firm of McCune Associates, formerly Pope, Kruse, and McCune, was engaged to oversee the design of the restoration. The late Albert Kruse served as consultant during the critical early stages. The professional preservation staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, under the supervision of Edward Heite, undertook an exhaustive program of documentary and architectural research.

Many of the bills and other construction documents have survived and are in the Delaware Archives collection at the Hall of Records. Other public records, also in the Archives, give clues to the building changes, dimensions of rooms, and other details. The research staff has been compiling these scattered documents into a meaningful "bill of materials" for the original building. Other records, including newspaper accounts, records of repairs, letters, drawings, and legislative minutes, have yielded further information regarding the structure's original appearance.

The architects have stripped away the Victorian interior fittings, as a first step toward the restoration. Partitions, flooring, panelling, and plaster have been removed in the search for evidence that has been buried in the walls. Nearly all the removed materials were installed during the 1873-74 and later renovations; no original materials have been taken out. For the first time in a century, the details of the original interior are available for study.

Under and around the building, archaeologists have been excavating in search of buried evidence. On the side walls, the archaeologists have found footings for the original side doorways. In the basement, they have uncovered chimney bases and evidence for the original cellar doorways.

Thanks to a coordinated documentary and architectural research program, the restorers can faithfully recreate the floor levels, the trim, the openings and the original roofline. Reserach continues, seeking further details that will help to make the State House restoration a significant monument to Delaware history.

THE PROFESSIONAL RESTORATION STAFF

In order to carry out the research project, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs has assembled the largest and most qualified restoration research staff ever to work in Delaware. Professional researchers, on the staffs of both the architectural firm and the state, are maintaining strict control over the details that will go into the restoration. The supervising architect, John F. McCune III, has more than 25 years' experience, much of it in the restoration of historic buildings. Edward F. Heite, who is directing research for the state, has been a professional historian for ten years; he was formerly archaeologist for the State of Virginia. William Harkins, an architect with more than ten years' experience is the architectural researcher for the McCune firm. Joan Norton, the supervising architectural historian on the Division staff, was trained in the Columbia University graduate program in restoration technology. Sue Fox, a researcher on the project, was formerly a member of the research staff of Colonial Williamsburg. Sally Schwartz, the other research associate, is a recent honors graduate of the University of Delaware, with experience in primary research.

RESTORATION GOALS

When the current project is completed, the State House will be returned to its original appearance, inside and out, as nearly as modern scientific restoration techniques can attain. The later wings will be removed. The building will be open as an historic exhibition, but it will also serve as Delaware's ceremonial capitol. Meetings, ceremonial court sessions, holiday observances, and similar state functions will be held in the building, so that America's second oldest state house will continue to play an integral part in the community it has served for nearly two centuries.

FINANCING

The General Assembly has appropriated \$750,000 toward the restoration. This sum has been supplemented by two grants from the National Park Service, under the National Register of Historic Places program authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The present session of the General Assembly has been asked to provide additional funds that will enable the Division to demolish the later wings and restore the State House to its original solitary grandeur.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The State House restoration is under the general supervision of the Director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Ronald M. Finch. Group tours may be arranged by calling the Historic Preservation Section at 678-4564.

Dover Green was laid out in 1717 when the Town plot was formally surveyed in compliance with William Penn's order of 1683. From the beginning it was the center of public and private life, with the court house and jail, the inns and the principal private homes, ^{holding it} here were held fairs, markets, militia musters and elections. Faced by the court house and jail, the ~~inns~~ inns, and substantial private homes, it was ~~the~~ ^{as} center of ^{both} public and private life from an early date. Here were held the fairs, markets, militia musters and elections.

It was on The Green that the Declaration of Independence was read to the assembled citizens in July, 1776, and the King's portrait ceremoniously burned. From it units of the Delaware Battalion marched to join Washington's army that summer, and to it ^{veterans} ~~others~~ returned for their final muster at the end of the ~~Revolution~~. In the immediate vicinity of The Green, Delaware became the First State of the Union by its ratification of the Federal Constitution on December 7, 1787. Through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries notable events in the history of the town, County, and State have continued to center here. ~~Dover became the capital of Delaware in 1797. For some years, some years~~ ~~The State~~ ~~rented space in private buildings and used quarters in Kent County Court House. By 1787 The State shared the facilities~~

Dover succeeded New Castle as Delaware's capital in May, 1777. For some years the State used the court house in Kent County, as it had done before in New Castle, ^{County,} renting additional space in private buildings when needed. In 1787 the State and County joined to rebuild Kent County Court House into a State House large enough to accommodate both governments.

Work began in December, 1787. The new structure rose on the same site, reusing the hard brick and other salvageable materials from the old. Because of financial difficulties it was not ready for occupancy until about April, 1792, and not fully finished for three years longer.

In 1836 a new wing was erected to the east of the original section. By 1873, conditions had again become overcrowded, leading to the State's purchase of the County's share in the title, followed by renovation and, unfortunately, alteration ^{of the roof line.} further additions became necessary in 1895-1897, 1910 and 1935-1936. During the 1910 work the oldest section was restored to its original appearance. When new space was again

needed, in 1931, the State adopted a unique solution. Rather than add endlessly and clumsily to the building which has been the capitol since 1777, ^{or abandoned it for that use,} a Capitol Buildings Complex was designed.

This ~~is~~ is made up of buildings of moderate size arranged about a campus adjoining The Green. All are of Georgian design harmonizing with the Old State House. Legislative Hall, the first of the detached sections, was opened in 1933. The Capitol Buildings Complex ^{in 1969} ~~now~~ includes ^(Township - now finished) thirteen buildings, with a fourteenth under construction.

The Old State House remains the most significant unit in the Complex, both architecturally and historically. It is scheduled for restoration in the near future, in order to preserve its fine Georgian ^{structural} details and through it to interpret ~~the continuity of Delaware's~~ nearly two hundred years of Delaware's history.

The major portion of the State's

collection of portraits ^{of statesmen} and other ^{historical} paintings is normally exhibited in the Old State House. One of the better known items is a life-size portrait of Washington, by Denis A. Volozan, finished in 1802, ^{shortly after the war} commissioned ^{as a memorial} ~~as a memorial~~ by the ~~first~~ Assembly shortly after the General's death, ~~as a memorial to him.~~

Another is a mural of the Delaware Battalion marching from the Green ^{in 1776} by Stanley Arthur, one of these historic subjects by the same artist. Some of the portraits, of statesmen are artistically notable as well as historically significant. ~~Because of the construction just completed in the creation of the Supreme Court Building from the old South Wing and the major restoration in progress, much of this collection has been placed in storage, ^{awaiting} ~~in anticipation~~ for the planned restoration.~~

Another memento of interest is the ~~bell~~ ^{bell,} ~~from~~ the old court house, placed originally by Thomas Rodney in 1770, and said to have summoned the citizens in 1774 to protest the closing of the Port of Boston. It

to announce public gatherings and notable news
remained in service, until the building
was purchased by the State. The Assembly
^{then} made specific provision for its preservation.

A hand-carved stand was later designed for
it. Like many of the portraits, the bell
is also temporarily in storage.

DAVID F. ANDERSON, President
GEORGE M. FISHER, Vice-President
HENRY P. CANNON, II, Secretary
MRS. EDWARD W COOCH
MRS. HENRY RIDGELY
MRS. J. WHEELER CAMPBELL



Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist

STATE OF DELAWARE
PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION
DOVER

May 26, 1960

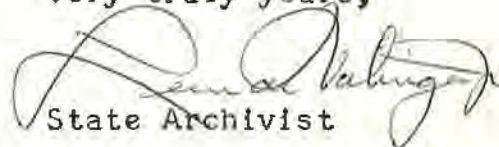
Mrs. Henry Ridgely
The Green
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mrs. Ridgely:

At your request we have examined the Laws and legislative Journals for the extant data concerning the alterations made in the State House in 1873 and its restoration in the period 1909-1911. We have also examined these sources for any additional material which might appear for Governor Charles Miller's administration.

We are enclosing a summary of our findings. We hope the material may prove helpful.

Very truly yours,


State Archivist

LdeV-vs-jb
Enclosure

Delaware State House Alterations
1873-1911

Governor Ponder's message, delivered January 7, 1873 included a paragraph entitled "Public Buildings", in which "the attention of the Legislature is invited to the condition of that part of the public building used for the State Library and the Secretary of State's Offices". The Governor pointed out that the Library room was becoming too crowded for the preservation of the State's increasingly valuable collection of books; and that "the office of the Secretary of State is not such as comports with the dignity of the State or furnishes proper accommodations for the discharge of the duties of that office." He urged that the current session provide suitably for the two agencies.

On January 29, 1873 a joint resolution, after alluding to the Governor's message and the fact that "it is obvious to all the condition of the State property is most deplorable, unworthy of the people of Delaware, and far worse than that of the property of any respectable citizen" appointed a joint committee of eight to consider the message, examine the property, and report the results with recommendations for action.

On February 19 the committee reported, recommending that the State purchase the County interest at \$15,000; on March 11 a Joint resolution appointing five members to draft appropriate legislation was adopted and appended to the report. Those on the original Joint committee were Charles C. Stockley, Leander F. Riddle, William M. Shakespeare, Hugh Martin, John Hickman, William S. Sheldrake, John Van Gaskin, and Lewis Thompson.

A bill was subsequently prepared, introduced, and, on April 3, 1873, passed. The full text appears in Laws Of Delaware, volume 14, pages 329-333. It is summarized below:

A major portion of the Act concerns the details of transferring title of the County's interest to the State, a procedure complicated by the fact that certain hereditary trustees proved to be non-resident minors. Of the building itself it said:

"And whereas it is deemed advisable that the State should own the entire premises aforesaid, to the end that the building thereon, which are now falling to decay, maybe repaired and properly remodelled, if necessary, refitted and refurnished for the use of the State exclusively. ... And whereas it is important that the building aforesaid should be properly and suitably repaired and otherwise improved, refitted and refurnished as aforesaid for the use of the General Assembly, the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Accounts, and the State Library"

A fund of \$15,000 was appropriated to purchase the County's rights, and another of \$20,000 to make the necessary improvements in the State House.

For the latter project C. C. Stockley, William M. Shakespeare, Leander F. Riddle, Lewis Thompson, Hugh Martin and John Van Gasken were appointed commissioners. "They shall have all needful power therefor, including the rearrangement of the interior of the building as to its present uses, as well as alterations in the body of the whole. ..."

Bids were to be let to the lowest responsible bidder, and a report and financial accounting submitted to the ensuing General Assembly.

The Journals of 1875 show that the report was made, accepted by the two chambers, and enrolled, but unfortunately it is not printed. Bills for \$21,877.34 were honored for "State Capitol Improvement."

In 1907 an expenditure of \$5000 was authorized and spent for alterations and repair, but Governor Preston Lea reported on January 17,

1909 in his final Message at the opening of the 1909 session that "the congested condition of the Law Library has not been relieved; on the contrary has grown more serious", and urged a separate Law Library Building and a vault for the Secretary of State, whose safe was scarcely adequate for current business and who could take no proper care of [older] State records in his custody.

The preliminary action on the Governor's suggestion is not clear, but it obviously included a proposal for demolition, for on January 25, 1909 the following letter was read into the record. It appears in the House Journal, page 138:

"Dr. Thomas Cooper:

Dear Sir:

Before taking final action upon any measure which may be introduced toward replacing our present State House with a modern structure ... we beg you to consider the restoration of the present building, which has so much of historic interest attached to it, to its original appearance as shown on the enclosed postal card.

"This building can be restored and an adequate fire-proof library added to it in the rear or at one side at a moderate cost.

"On behalf of a committee representing the Patriotic Societies of Delaware:

Mr. John Bancroft	Mrs. Willard Saulsbury
Mr. Thomas F. Bayard	Mrs. Charles R. Miller
Dr. John P. Wales	Miss Sophia Waples
Judge Charles B. Lore	Mrs. Peterson-Speakman
Mrs. Preston Lea	Mrs. Henry Ridgely, Jr. "

On April 5, 1909 an Act published in Laws Of Delaware, volume 25, pages 6-7, created a commission to build a fireproof administration and library building and make alterations on the existing State House. Its appropriation was \$65,500. It had broad discretion in the assignment but was forbidden to raze the State House.

The House Journal of 1911, pages 773-778 contains a report of the Commission, setting for the events of the biennium in some detail.

It had met first on April 29, 1909, elected its officers (S. S. Pennewill, Preston Lea and A. P. Corbit), and arranged for surveying the lot, "clearing the Jump property" and ascertaining the needs of the various offices. Subsequently the architectural plans of Edward L. Tilton had been accepted, and a contract for the work let. Although the full exterior restoration could not be undertaken within the available appropriation, ^{an} ~~the~~ unusually advantageous bid was accepted through the intervention of private citizens. Mr. Henry Ridgely and Mr. James H. Hughes had appeared before the Commission, urging immediate completion, and offering to accept personal responsibility for a share of the additional sum, about \$6000, which was needed; subsequently they secured some sixty additional guarantors and expressions of approval of the proposal from any interested citizens. The original contractor failed to complete the work within the specified time with reasonable extention; the construction was completed through arrangements with his bondsman. This second contractor commented on the good quality and low price of the work the State had secured.

Within the period of Governor Charles Miller's administration (1913-1917), we have found no evidence of any structural changes. There were appropriations for general maintenance, and for securing portraits and murals, and also an assignment of quarters. Nothing else is indexed under "State House" in either the Laws or the Journals.

MINUTES re STATE HOUSE FURNISHINGS

[Miscellaneous Items]

Council p. 1215 To James Coleman for making a writing desk for Council Chamber 11-5-0
Oct. 15, 1791 To Christopher Horton, for 18 armed chairs 10-2-6

Council p. 1277 That an order...be drawn...in favor of John White, of Wilmington, for the sum of five pounds, five shillings, for making a pair of venetian blinds for forty-light window, agreeable to the direction of John Gordon, deceased, for the chamber in the Court House at Dover.
May, 1792

1791-Jan. p. 41 - Whittington Draper for making a case with 96 Pigeon Holes and other conveniences to hold books and paper, for the use of the Auditor's office - 5-10-0 (disallowed); also 200 ft. pine and cedar board, 35 shingles, nails, screws, locks, hinges, bolts, sprigs for case. 2-0-06-also disallowed.

H.J. p. 13, balance due Christopher Horton for 24 armed Windsor chairs 5-5-0;
1791 p. 55, George Rowen, for a large covered writing desk for the
Oct, House 3-16-3; Christopher Horton for 24 Windsor chairs for the House, 8-8-0.

H.J. - p. 236 - Item in account, "Carpet for Senate Chamber, \$63.10.
1832

LEVY COURT DOCKETS

(From books in
basement vault)

- April 1851 #360 - \$30.00 for painting and fitting up the Levy Court room.
365 - \$3.00 A. Todd for his office.
- November 1851 394 - H. Todd, Clerk of the Court, ordered to comply with City
of Dover order "in respect to laying down pavements,
placing stone steps and flagstones at and contiguous to
the County property," and authorized to make necessary
payments.
- February 1852 #91 - Sperm candles for the court \$5.00 (John McDowell).
#92 - County pile driver disassembled and stored in the State
House cellar.
- March #249 - S. C. Letherbury for taking care of court house, \$50.00.
- November #383 - \$20.00 appropriated for painting Levy Court Room.
- 1853
- March #213 - Repairs on Levy Court Room, \$10.39.
#268 - Samuel C. Letherbury, \$50.00, one year's pay as Keeper
of the Court House.
#332 - Wood for courts, \$12.00.
- October #10(P6) - Robert W. Reynolds authorized to have walls of the
Register of Wills office whitewashed and woodwork
and cases painted.
- 1854
- March Balance of \$107.14 in hands of S. M. Harrington, Trustee
of the Court House and Library Fund.
- #281 - Samuel C. Letherbury for keeping and airing Court House
one year, \$50.00.
- 1855
- February #88 - Glazing on Court House, \$2.25.
#140(P2) - Conditional appropriation of \$150.00 for "building
suitable privies for the accommodation of the General
Assembly, the several Courts of Kent County and the
public officers of said County," if matched by General
Assembly.
- March 281 - Samuel C. Letherbury, Keeper, \$50.00.
- April 427(P2) - S. C. Letherbury empowered to sell old stoves belonging
to the Court House; also to purchase blinds for Levy
Court Room.
- 1856
- February New stove for Clk. of Orphans Court (A. B. Richardson & Co.)
\$7.75.

- #77, 79 - New grate for stove in Prothonotary's Office.
- #91 - Chairs for jury - \$11.00.
- #309 - S. C. Letherbury, Keeper, \$50.00; (P3), authorized to "remove the old lobby gallery from the Levy Court Room as soon as practicable and to repair the breaks in the wall occasioned by its removal and paper it to correspond with the rest of the room, and to sell the old gallery when removed..."

1856

April

- #412 - Building public privies \$44.99.
- #416 - S. C. Letherbury for purchasing coal and candles for the Courts of the County. - \$25.00; also repaid \$3.00 on an earlier resolution for purchase of coal, candles and furniture. (recheck 55 if necessary).
- 424(P2) - Thomas Letherbury required to discontinue using "any part of the Court House for a shoe shop," and to remove his tools within one week.
- 433 - Recommend putting sash windows, with glass covered with screen, on all basement windows of Court House; \$25.00 appropriated for purpose.
- 466 - Stove for Recorders Office \$11.25.

October

- 479 - (P12-Oct. 21) Messrs. Voshell and Ward submitted an account \$15.00 for unspecified work done on Court House.

1857

February

- #9 - 2 cases and small shelf for Prothonotary's office \$11.00.
- 32 - S. C. Letherbury-repairs on Levy Court room \$15.75.
- 68 - Glazing windows of Court House.

March

- 112 - 4 chairs for Prothonotary's office \$10.87½ (Voshell & Ward).

April

- 243 - S. C. Letherbury, Keeper, 1 year @ \$50.00.
- 341 - Long resolution sites the pressing need of a "fireproof building" for the county records, the decision to use a parcel "heretofore leased to Abel Harris (now dec'd) and Saulsbury Dean" and also the Clerk of Peace & Sheriff's offices. Gives formal notice to lessees to quit the premises by April, 1858. Appoints John S. Bell, Wm. H. Holding and Clement L. Sharp a committee to secure architect's estimates of cost, and a draught (April 16, 1857).

1858

February

- #28 - Repairs at Jail and Court House \$15.76.
- 38 - Coal for use of County.
- 79 - Repairs to Court House pavement.
- 137-138 - Stove for recorders office \$6.00; stove, scuttle, shovel and extra pipe, \$12.00 - Rich. & Robbins.
- # Award of \$900.00 to Newton Hubbard as owner of a house "directly north of the 'old Jail'" on County property.

1859

February

"Tuesday the 1st 10 o'clock a.m. the Court met according to law in the New County Building (Just finished by Contract with Wm. Greaves of Wilmington for the sum of Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars), the officers having

- all moved into it." (Further bills and maintenance relating to County Building not extracted.)
- #121 - All "old cases, stoves, coal hods and other appertenances" of the old offices not in use to be disposed of.
- 125 - New stoves and fixtures, offices & Levy Court room) \$131.72.
- 126-129 - Furniture for Orphans Court, Recorder, Register and Clerk of Peace.
- #143 - Formal report of Committee for erection of a new County Building for Levy Court and public records.
- 144 - A committee from Levy Court appointed to meet with a committee of the State Senate to consider "a change of rooms in the State House."
- February 9 212 - Estimate sought for a brick coal shed for county offices; #296, bid of \$425.00 obtained.
- 228 - James Wise directed to have "old offices now occupied by Messrs. Saulsbury and Pennington," papered and fallen plaster replaced; Mr. Bateman's office whitewashed and cleaned; and steps on north end of the State House repaired.
- 231 - Proposal of Lemuel Bancroft for making markers for offices in new building, lettering in gold on Japanned tin or iron.
- 350 - New Levy Court room for Dover Lyceum (which had formerly used the State House).
- 404 - James W. Wise, bailiff authorized to have J. B. Pennington's office painted.
- 416 - Samuel C. Letherbury, keeping State House, \$50.00.
- 417 - Repairs to Court House pavement.
- April 431 - Freight and portorage on curbing and setting the (same?) on the Court House Lane.
- 515 - Setting curbing at Public Building.
- June (special) to consider Grand Jury report "in which the leaky condition of the Court House roof was mentioned." A Report of the Grand Jury on the Public Buildings cited but not quoted.
- #527 - Table for court room \$30.50; dozen windsor chairs for G(ran)d Jury Room \$14.00.
- 528
- #534 - Resolution offered to propose exchanging a portion of the County Lot for having gas fixtures installed in County Building and Court House. Lost 4 - 5.
- 545 - Bailiff James W. Wise ordered to have the leaks in State House roof stopped.
- October 571 - James Wise for repairing State House roof, and housing coal, \$3.00.
- 614 - The Committee appointed to discuss a change of State House rooms with the Senate reports unfavorably the proposal to relinquish "the two Rooms in the Second Story on the North side of the Court House now occupied for the State and County purposes for the Room now occupied by the Senate." They believe the County would then have "no suitable Jury Rooms," and also object to the Senate retaining "the privilege of using (the room) by the Sergent at Arms and Fire Maker" during Assembly sessions. - Report adopted.
- 1860
- February #56 - S. C. Letherbury for candles furnished the Courts by Cowgill & Son, \$7.20.

- 219 - New Coco matting ordered for the County Court Room.
240 - Glazing windows of Court House \$1.87.
- March 255 - Desk and table for Levy Court Room \$32.00 (B. O. Waples).
257 - James W. Wise for taking care of State House for 1859, \$50.00.
263 - Coco matting and fitting it to the Court House floor \$122.25.
271 - Excess matting for Court Room to be placed on "present Levy Court Room."
291 - Authorization to sell "the old desks formerly occupied by the Levy Court."
- April 476 - H. Todd allowed to extend a brick wall, with gate, "so as to form an enclosure of the public ground back of said Co. Building...so as to make a proper finish between his new House and said County Building." - April 11, 1860.
- October Mention of Public Pump (also previous allusions) apparently "Pump at the County Building."
- 1861
February #39 - Allusion to Smoke House (at the Jail).
73 - Candles for Court Room mentioned.
165 - New pump and fixtures in front of the County Building. \$22.00
243 - Relaying pavement in front of County Building. \$40.25.
294 - "Springs at the Court House door."
- March 341 - Charles N. Trump for gas fixtures in the Court House.
353 - James W. Wise for keeping State House for the year 1860, \$50.00.
- April 511 - Resolution empowering John Bell, in conference with John Green, to have necessary repairs made on Court House and authorizing him to pay the County's share of cost.
- October #559 - Repairing register in Court Room.
- 1863
March J. W. Wise for care of the Court Room 1862/3 - \$50.00.
#286 - Committee appointed to confer with State committee on repairs to State House.
#318 - County's share of repairs on State House roof \$1376.93. (apparently on previous authorization).
324 3/4 - A committee authorized to negotiate sale to the State of Delaware of "the two offices situated at the south end of the State House belonging to Kent County now in the tenure of John B. Pennington and Elias S. Reed, "at a price no less than \$1000.00, tenants to vacate at end of year.
450 - County Treasurer directed to repair plaster in ceiling of his office and "the floor in the Fireman's Room over his said office."
- 1864
February
April Allowed Cullen and Wallace for coal furnished for the Court House in 1858 - \$11.00.

- October Office now occupied by Eli Saulsbury leased to him for
10 years from January 1865.
- #348 - Allusion to stabling and house in Jail Yard.
442 - Offices rented to Eli Saulsbury, William A. Atkinson,
John H. Pennington and Edward Ridgely for ten years.
- 1865
March 1231 - Work on Court House etc. \$.75 (sic).
- October 507 - Wallace & Burton for green base (baize?) for use of
Court Room, \$24.75
517(P4) - William Duhamel and James D. Kimney appointed to repair
the Court Room with as much dispatch as possible. -
Returns to February session)
- 1866
February

1866

March

James A. Wise appointed to take charge of Court Room "and to allow no meetings to be held (in) it except to allow the two political parties to meet there for consultation and the exclusive use of the court."

#439 - Committee to repair court room \$30.00.

October

Laying carpet in court room \$4.00.

#506 - Work in court room \$4.00

1867

February

#141 - James W. Wise for care of Court Room for year \$30.00.

149 - bill for candles for court. -

155 - John Casselum for gas burner \$9.25.

p. 46 - A wood and coal house for county authorized; custodian of County buildings directed to allow no outside use of rooms except to political parties.

March

p.49 #228 - Samuel Letherbury for covering for chairs in court room \$30.25.

p.51 #238 - James W. Wise for care of court room 6 months, \$34.25.

April

p.85 #561 - Beniah Watson empowered to alter office he occupies and install gas provided premises are returned in proper condition on expiration of the lease.
(last P)

October

p.91,#568 - Jas. W. Wise authorized to "repair and put in complete order the porch and steps on the south end of the Court House leading to the offices of Beniah Watson and Edward Ridgely..."

92-#572 - Jas. W. Wise for taking care of court room - 6 months \$51.25.

1868

February

108-#130 - James W. Wise for taking care of court \$30.00.

March

131-#306 - John Jester authorized to have gas introduced into the Levy Court room.

137-#341 - Ladies of the Baptist Church of Dover granted use of the Court Room for holding Tableaux for the benefit of the church.

#371 - Paid James Wise \$9.00 for building new steps to the offices of Edward Ridgely and B. Watson on south end of the Court House.

April)

October)

No entries; October apparently incomplete.

1869 p. 167

February

#188 - James W. Wise for taking care of the court room, \$30.00.

229 - John J. Jester authorized to secure "suitable furniture and carpet for the Levy Court Room;" James W. Wise authorized to move "the present furniture and carpet, (except the settee and four chairs) to the old Levy Court room for the benefit of the jurors when the new furniture is secured". New Levy Court room to be used by its members only.

- #382 - Lock on front door of the Court House repaired.
- March #527 - T. C. Killen for repairs to the court room, \$3.40.
- April P5 #586 - Building and Loan Association of the Town of Dover permitted use of old Levy Court Room in Court House for meetings; James G. Waples authorized to cut down the Walnut Tree on the north side of the County Building.
- October
- 1870
- February #161 - James W. Wise for taking care of court room, \$30.00.
164 - Richardson and Robbins "for gas" to February 1, 1870, \$29.90.
236 - Active Hook & Ladder Company of Dover granted permission to use old Levy Court Room for meetings on payment of caretaker for extra work.
Baptist Church of Dover granted use of old Levy Court room and Fireman's Room in Court House for holding a festival.
- March #291 - James W. Wise for care court and Jury rooms for past 6 months, \$31.25.
#326 P2 - County Pump in front of the Court House to be "put in good working order."
- October p. 280 #20- Wm. E. Smith for "Settees, chairs, etc." for Superior Court Room, \$29.00.
21 - Repairs on County Building and Court House unitemized, \$53.75; #25 - Sam'l. C. Letherbury for covering seats for Court Room, \$3.00.
28 - James W. Wise for taking charge of Superior Court Room for six mo. \$31.25.
29 - Frederick Croyden for furnishing and putting up mosquito netting in Superior Court room, \$1.00
- 1871
- February #216 - Motion to allow "the Ladies" use of the old Levy Court room for a "refreshment room on Monday night next" defeated.
259 - Richardson & Robbins for gas pipe and fixtures for old Levy Court Room, \$6.00.
p.312 #326 - Use of Superior Court room granted for a concert on March 16th; also to Miss Mariah Chapman for a lecture "on the subject of Phrenology."
#342 - James A. Wise for care of court room for six months, \$31.25.
- April #443 - Fred Croyden for repairing furniture in Superior Court room, \$3.00.
#573 - Resolution authorizing a building committee to proceed with plans and specifications for a new jail & sheriff's house at \$30,000, twenty cells, on general outline of Mr. (Charles) Hilyard's sketch, with "all modern improvements in relation to light, heat and water;" walls of jail of Port Deposit stone; of sheriff's quarters, "City Hard red brick" (much detail in subsequent entries not abstracted).

- June #616 - Removal of fences around jail property authorized; $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to east to be rented, old stabling and hog pens from jail property moved there; Town Commissioners of Dover notified to "move the buildings in front of the Jail property."
- October #12 - James W. Wise for care of Superior Court room, 6 mo., \$31.25.
- 1872
February
March #288 - James W. Wise for Superior Court room, 6 mo., \$31.25.
- October #2 - James W. Wise for taking charge of Court Room 6 mo., \$31.25.
13 - Old jail to be sold at public auction October 29, 1872, to be removed from premises and site put in shape for garden for new jail.
- 1873
February #45 - James W. Wise for Supreme Court Room, \$31.25.
#121 - Contract let for stable and carriage house for jail.
- April #204 - Resolution accepting the terms of the recent Act of Assembly
pp. 450- empowering the State to secure full title to the Court
451 House-State House, and authorizing the President of Levy Court to perform, in its name, all actions necessary to implementing the agreement. Adopted April 10, 1873.
- May #219 - "John C. Pennewill for copying petition in regard to the Perchas by the State of the County in(ter)est in the County Building", \$5.00.
220 - James H. Peterson for strap on rail in Court House, \$1.00.
- June #2 - Preparing deed for sale of State House. \$5.50
- October 236 - Land purchased June 3, 1873 from Tobias P. Merritt ordered transferred to Edward Ridgely in trust for the County's use.
239 - To Curtis L. Watson, \$1.00 in part payment for a House and lot on the Public Square in tenure of S. G. Laws.
254 - Authorizes acquisition of lot of Wm. C. Fountain "at the corner of the Green and State Street" for the erection of a new Court house if an unencumbered title can be obtained from Fountain and his mortagor, Gustavus G. Logan - Oct. 14, 1873.
367 - Payment to sheriff for 10% of "purchase money for the Burnt Hotel property this day sold by the sheriff."
- November #10 - Committee appointed to plan the erection of a new Court House - David Rees, James R. Burnite and Wm. H. Hobson.
- 1874
January #8 - Committee appointed to wait on Kent County Mutual Fire Insurance Company to make sale of the County Building "to the best advantage possible," but not less than \$12,000.

- p. 480 #571 - County Treasurer authorized to receive of the State Treasurer \$15,000, the purchase price of the lot and "Court House building." [Jan. 21, 1874].
- February Resolution that new Court House be erected on the "Burnt Hotel Property;" plans of Prince & Taylor rejected; cost limited to \$30,000.
- March 192 - James W. Wise for care of Superior Court Room furniture Price & Taylor plan for new Court House accepted.
- April #310 - "Fitting up Court Room \$13.35.
#320 - Contract for new Court House let. \$31,500.
- August #344 - Court adjourned to visit new Court House.
#349 - Petition of Democratic Party for use of "Present Levy Court Room" for campaign meetings since new Court House is not finished. Granted.
#373 - Building Committee ordered to purchase a clock for new Court House when \$300.00 has been raised by private contribution. Offices to be rented in new Court House.
- January 1875 #375 - Court Room & Hall tendered to State of Delaware for inauguration on January 19th.
#376 - Stage fixtures authorized.

HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRIES GIVING CLUES TO ASSEMBLY MEETING PLACES 1782-1792

- Oct. p.11
1782 No room entry
- 1783
January p. 72 -John Creighton, for use of Assembly and Committee rooms,
firewood and candles 25-0-0
- 1783
May p. 107 - John Gordon, Esq., for use of the Assembly Room 7-10-0
- 1784
Oct. p. 15 - Thomas Price for a room furnished for the use of the
Assembly, and firewood and candles 5-0-0
- 1785
January p. 59 - Thomas Price for the use of the Assembly Room, and for
firewood and candles 25-0-0
- 1785
May p. 23 - same 7-10-0
- 1785
Oct. p. 17 - for a room furnished for the Use of the Assembly, firewood
and candles 9-0-0
- 1786
January p. 50 - Same 20-0-0
- 1786
May p. 32 - Same 10-0-0
- 1786
October p. 11 - Same 2-5-0
- 1787
January p. 61 - Same 20-0-0
- 1787
May John Freeman for use of the Assembly Room 3-0-0
- Assembly
1787 p. 29 - John Freeman, for the Use of the Assembly Room, and for
October firewood and candles 9-7-6
- ibid, 1788 - p. 41 - John Freeman, for a room for the Assembly, and for firewood
and candles 14-7-6
- ibid, 1788, May - p. 32 - Freeman, for use of Assembly -Room 5-12-6
- ibid, 1788, October, p. 15 - Same 3-0-0
- ibid 1789, January, p. 56 - Same 10-0-0
- ibid 1789, May, p. 16, Same 3-0-0
- ibid 1789, October, p. 15- Same 1-10-0
- ibid 1790, January, p. 45, Elizabeth Read, Assembly Room, firewood & Candles, 13-0-0

ibid 1790, October, p. 16 - Elizabeth Read-Smac 3-0-0

ibid 1791, 0September, p. 55 - Ann Ridgely, for use of the Assembly Room, 11-14-1

ibid 1791, October - No. entry for rent.

DATA BEARING ON MEETING PLACES BEFORE 1792

[Minutes Of The Council...]

Council

- p. 179- "To Mr. French Battell, for fire, candles, etc. 15-0-0
[Session To Mr. French Battell for sundry expenses of the Council
ending Dec.1777] 150-18-5
- p. 309
[Spring & No room entry
Summer,1778]
- p. 350
Oct.,Nov.,Dec. No room entry
1778]
- p. 400
Feb.1779 - No room entry
- p. 439 To French Battell, for the expenses of the Council at his house,
June, 1779 No. 9 - 540-19-8
- p. 463 To Thos. North [He is a barber. c.ep.589] per acct No. 8 [No
Oct. 1779 detail 15-15-0
To French Battell-per acct. No. 9 [No detail 1317-8-0
- p. 517-518 Expenses include boarding member, liquors, and stabling
Dec. 1779 [i.e., Battell bill is by implication for living expenses, not a
meeting room.]
- p. 540 "Paying Mrs. Jones for the rent of her room for the Council."
April,1780
- p. 569 French Battell, as per bill, No. 9
June, 1780
- p. 589 No bill for room, etc. [Mileage only for members]
Nov. 1780
- 623-624 Travelling expenses and wood only
Feb. 1781
- 648 Travelling expenses per diem
June 1781
- 687 Attendance and mileage
Nov. 1781
- 722 Attendance and mileage
Feb. 1782

742-743 Attendance and mileage, but small unitemized payments to Eliza
May, 1782 Thompson, Ann Westly, Rachel Bullen and Mary Lewis as next
item

Rhg. 1782 - Missing

815 Accounts not recorded
Jan.-Feb. 1783

847 To Mrs. Eliza Battell, for the hire of her room 5-0-0
May-June, 1783

p. 868 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell, for the use of a room, firewood and
Oct. 1783 candles 12-0-0

p. 874 No room included in account. But, p. 872, dated April 8th -
Oct.-May, 1784 Members listed from New Castle and Kent "who met at the
house of the Honorable Caesar Rodney, Esq., the Speaker, he
being too much indisposed to attend at the usual place of
meeting."

Oct. 1784 No accounts printed.
Jan-Oct., 1785

p. 995 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell, for the use of a room during this
[May-June 1786] sitting 13-0-0

p. 1008 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell, for the use of a room, firewood and
Oct. 1786 candles 5-0-0

1044 Same 20-0-0
Jan. 1787

1058 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell for use of a room 7-10-0
June 1787

1062 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell for use of a room 2-15-0
Aug. 1787

1087 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell for use of a room, etc. 13-10-0
Oct. 1787

1118 To Mrs. Elizabeth Battell for use of a room, firewood and candles
Jan. 1788 20-0-0

May, 1788 Incomplete; no accounts included.

1152 To Mrs. Battell for use of a room 2-12-6
Oct. 1788

1188 Minutes missing or fragmentary after Feb. 4, 1789 [until
1789 January 22, 1791]

- 1197 To Elizabeth Battell for use of the Council Chamber 15-0-0
Jan. [Same page State Treasurer ordered to purchase 100 tickets
1791 in the lottery for finishing the Court House...]
- 1225 No room rent mentioned, but Guardian Account of Henry M. Ridgely
Sept. 1791 has entry under Sept. 10th, from John Gordan, State
Treasurer, showing the orphan was paid 8-10-0 "allowed by
Council for two rooms in your house during the Session."
[This was a Special Session which authorized election of
delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1791-92].
- p. 1214-15 No room rent mentioned. John Gordan requested to furnish the
Oct. 26, 1791 Council Chamber, in the Court House at Dover "with such
items as he considers necessary. [p. 1256 shows that Gordan
died before Feb. 2, 1792].
- p. 1259 Attendance and mileage only.
Jan. 1792
- p. 1267-68 Verbatim message of the Assembly transmitting a resolution
May 4, 1792 refusing to meet again in Dover until guaranteed access to
the chambers promised the Assembly.
- p. 1270 Senate reply to House message, offering an amended and more detailed
May 5, 1792 resolution concerning the denial of the Court House rooms to
the Assembly and the resultant adjournment to Duck Creek
Cross Roads.
- 1277 Council version returned concurred in.
eo die
- 1278 To James Battell for use of the chamber in Dover, 1-10-0
May, 1792 [Entry above indicates that the Council was refused its room
and found another privately; the House was later forcibly
ejected from its chamber.]

Note: General Reference #360 indicates that Mrs. Battell was paid for a room by the Convention ratifying the Federal Constitution.

Minutes of the Convention Of The Delaware State, p. 106, indicates no room rent.
It met from Nov. 29, 1791, to December 31, 1791; and May 29, to June 12, 1792.

[Note: Delaware Guide, p. 188, identifies the site of French Battell's Tavern, continued by his widow Elizabeth, as Northeast corner of State Street and The Green, now occupied by the Parke Building. "Henry M. Ridgely's house," in 1791, was the Ridgely House on The Green.]

JOURNALS, HOUSE AND SENATE

House, Oct. 20, 1785, pp. 32-33 - leave granted Mr. Patten to bring in a bill "for granting 800 to enable the County of Kent to enlarge and finish a Court House, intended to be erected in the Town of Dover, so as to accommodate the same for the purposes of a State House," Jan. 21, 1786 - postponed.

ibid, pp. 35-36 - motion put and passed [13-6-vote recorded].

House, May 27, 1788, p. 5, memorial from Court House Commissioners that plans have been altered to "accommodate the same to the purpose of a State House," and asking a grant. Action deferred (May 30, 1788); p. 6, May 31, referred to committee. p. 7, June 2, petition refused "at this time" because of "the condition of the treasury together with the loud complaints of the public creditors." p. 13 - June 3, motion made and defeated to appropriate monies from marriage and tavern licenses toward completing the "Court House now erecting in the town of Dover."

House, Jan. 12, 1789, p. 15, Jan. 17, report from Levy Court that a court house of suitable size to accommodate the Assembly has been built and soliciting aid of the State to complete it; referred to committee.

House, Jan. 4, 1790, p. 8 - previous communication acknowledged as unfinished business Jan. 9.-[No follow-up that session].

House, Jan. 4, 1791 p. 25, Jan. 21-Leave granted to bring in a bill to raise 1000 by lottery "for finishing the Court House." - Bill introduced; p. 28 - Jan. 22 - second reading; p. 31, Jan. 24, passed House; p. 35, Jan. 26 - returned concurred in; p. 52, Jan. 28, signed; p. 55, Jan. 29 - resolution received from Council directing the State to purchase 100 tickets, amended to limit cost 150. No further a Council action.

House, Oct. 20, 1791, p. 5, Oct. 24 - The Auditor complains that the s.e. corner room of the Court House, assigned to him, has been "taken possession of" by Mark McCall who refuses to vacate. House refuses to act; p. 7, Oct. 25, report of the managers of the lottery discussed in committee of the whole; supplemental bill presented; p. 8, passed afternoon same day; p. 9 - returned with amendment, disagreed to it and reconsidered bill, adopting a new amendment limiting the loss to the State to 750 and so passed; p. 11, Council rejected House amendment; House adhered to own version but later reconsidered. Bill passed.

[Discontinued at this point. The time required to page these unindexed volumes seems out of all proportion to data found].

H.J. 1835-1837]

1835, p. 86 [Jan. 27, 1835], a committee of three members, appointed to "enquire with the expediency of enlarging the chamber, of the House of Representatives, and the construction of a room for the Library of the General Assembly; with leave to report thereon," whereupon Messrs [Charles] Marin, [Thomas] Davis and [William] Herdman were appointed.

1835, p. 126-127 - Report published verbatim, presenting three alternatives with the advantages of and objects to each. But recommending the one that called for addition at the back rather than at one or both ends. Adopted.

[Checked 1831-33, 1835-37, and 1839-1841. Only significant entry is 1839, p. 231, reporting a satisfactory audit on an appropriation of \$390.00 for State House use.]

H.J. 1873 - p. 17 - Governor's message recommends more adequate accommodations for the State Library and Secretary of State. pp. 136-137, Joint resolution to appoint a committee to investigate; reported enrolled, 377; bill for acquisition of title and repairs presented for concurrence Mar. 1, p. 702; discussed, amended and passed April 3, p. 820; enrolled, signed and returned, pp. 898, 965.

House, 1843, p. 248, Jan. 30 - Committee to inquire what repairs are necessary to the State House to assure its preservation from the weather; p. 469-Feb. 18, recommend \$200.00 appropriation if Kent County appropriates \$100.00-work to be supervised by Levy Court.

H.J. 1845 - p. 261, Feb. 12, 1845 - itemized report of bills paid for making repairs authorized previous session.

H.J. 1855, pp. 318-319, re repair or replacement, Mar. 2.

H.J. 1875 - Report of joint committee re Public Buildings read and concurred in, Jan. 14, p. 104; subsequent history pp. 107-108, 157.

H.J. 1877 - no entries

H.J. 1879 - Resolution received, Mar. 21, p. 533; subsequent history 535, 538, enrolled, Mar. 28, p. 625.

H.J. 1883 - resolution re having State House supplied with water from Dover Water Works, offered and adopted, Jan. 3, 1883, p. 28; subsequent history, pp. 38, 40, 118; returned signed. Jan. 24, p. 133; State Librarian's report, citing insurance valuation of the State House, furnishings and library, Jan 1, 1883, pp. 68-71.

S.J., 1873 @ Bill for acquisition of entire title reported and read, Mar. 18, 1873, p. 427-428; subsequent history pp. 461, 466, 467, 479, 583, 585, 622; returned signed and sent to Secretary of State, April 9, p. 658.

S.J. 1875 - pp. 146-147 - Joint committee on the preservation and regulation of the Capitol issues a report embodying rules for the administration of the building and the library, and appointing a librarian-custodian at \$300.00 per year; quoted, January 25, 1875.

S.J. 1879 - Joint resolution re sanitary condition of the State House introduced and adopted, Mar. 6, pp. 399-400; subsequent history, 537, 538, 606; returned and signed, Mar. 29, p. 619.

- H. J. 1865 - p. 53, 101 - Hall of House authorized for specified community gatherings.
- H.J. 1867 - Nothing
- H.J. 1869 - H.J. missing; [Senate Journal, p. 537 - a committee rejects with thanks the offer of J.A. Fulton, Esq. of 3 acres on which to build a State House; because of public finances, depression of private business and "the many conflicting opinions that exist in relation to remodeling the present State House or building a new one, that in all probability there may not be a new State House built for many years,...." committee therefore thinks site selection premature (John M. Hall, George Russell)]
- H.J. 1871 - pp. 22-23, Governor's Report calls attention to poor condition of public buildings and need for facilities for the library, p. 47, committee appointed.
- H.J. 1885 - p. 141 - Committee lists new furnishings needed for Governor's Room and Parlor, Jan. 20, 1885
- H.J. 1887 - No entries
- [S.J.] 1889 - 114 - Bill for erection of a new State House introduced, read and ordered printed, 159 referred to committee, p. 650-substitute reported and adopted 5-3, Apr. 23, 1889;
- H.J. 1889 - 787-792, 823, presented, reported to committee, taken up, and indefinitely postponed April 26, 1889.
- H.J. 1897 - p. 942 - Notice of intention to file a bill providing for a new State House, April 19, 1897; no follow-up.
- H.J. 1899, pp. 1252, 1329, 30, 1401, 1482, 1205, 1207-08, 947-948, 1206-07 - all relating to payments for refurbishing; small reversion from \$3000.00 appropriation; p. 343, Librarian instructed to provide keys to front door to certain officials, and two keys to "Room No. 4 on the third floor of the State House," assigned to the attorneys.
- H.J. 1901-723, 767, 1088, bill to have State House lighted by electricity presented, read, committed, and reported unfavorably.
- H.J. 1907 - S. B. #48, pp. 382, 400, 422, 469, 330, 473, 882, 963, 976, providing a night watchman; S.B. #77, 851, 885, 963, 976, repairs and alterations.
- H.J. 1909, p. 138 - Letter on behalf of the Patriotic Societies of Delaware asking restoration of present building "to its original appearance as shown by the enclosed postal card", with addition at rear or side for library-dated Jan. 22, 1909, session Jan. 25, 1909; p. 27, governor's message points out pressing need for repairs and additional space [report of State House Commission alluded to]; p. 349, Resolution directing Public Building Committees of both houses, jointly, to obtain plans during session for remodeling and enlarging the State House-Unanimous approval, FEB. 16, 1909 [S.J. p. 746-reported unfavorably, p. 778, rejected unanimously].

- H.J. 1911 - 633, 672, 778, 779, 825, 855, 887, 888, appropriating \$12,000 supplemental funds for State House restoration and enlargement; 997, 981-983, appointment of a Janitor; 131, 155, 178-180, 192, 194, 973-976, authorizing the placement of marble commemorative tablets in the rotunda, enrolled March 30, 1911; report of the State House Commission, pp. 773- 778, filed March 20, 1911, full text; p. 207, 208, 213, 227, 228, 400, an act providing for the illumination of the cupola, introduced, reported and passed House unanimously; [S.J. 454] rejected by Senate 3-10.
- H.J. 1913 - pp. 1000-1005 - Report of State House Commission, text, filed March 23, 1913.
- H.J. 1919 - p. 158, Governor John G. Townsend suggests an addition to the State House as a memorial to the War Heroes of Delaware; 244, 377, 468, 558, 848, 860 re memorial building to Soldiers and Sailors, adopted March 25, 1919.
- H.J. 1921 - p. 214, 509, 569, 570, 622, 639, 680, bill providing for a mural representing an incident of the Civil War, passed Mar. 25, 1921.
- H.J. 1927 - pp. 709, 713, Report of State House Annex Commission, including allotment of space, filed April 8, 1927.
- H.J. 1927 - pp. 223, 236, 246, 286, 742, 749, 672, 867; amendment of Revised Code re State House approved, concurred and signed. Content not evident.
- H.J. 1929 - pp. 308, 752 - act to provide a guard to open State House on Sunday and guide interested visitors. - Stricken; 142-143, 150, 153, 154, 172, 175, 188, 189, 352, to investigate the need of an addition to the State House, presented, passed, concurred in and signed, Feb. 26, 1929; 857, 858, 859, 861, 862-appropriating funds for above; apparently passed House Only.
- H.J. 1931 - pp. 654, 655, 667, 682, 704, S.B. #70 introduced, reported, passed and signed, providing for acquisition of additional land and construction of Legislative Hall, April 7, 1931; [S.J. pp. 670-672]; text of report of Commission to plan for adequate housing for State departments; S.J. p. 391 - Thomas Jefferson, custodian; p. 50-message indicates Buck appointed commission above.
- H.J. 1939 - p. 354-#203-Bill to appropriate \$2500.00 to protect State House from termites. Never reported; also S.B. #206, p. 842, 844 re days and hours the State House to be open, Referred, not reported.
- H.J. 1941 - pp. 321, 695, 720, 723 - State Buildings and Grounds Commission created [S.B. #24]-passed House April 9, 1941.
- H.J. 1949 - pp. 164, 249, 361, 433, 477, 478, appropriation for a fire alarm system for the State House, approved June 30.
- H.J. 1957 - p. 512-appropriation for an architectural study, read and referred only.
- through 1961-latest we have

STATE HOUSE -
Resolutions re

House Journals

- Vol. IX - p. 563 - appointing Joseph Buckmaster caretaker of legislative chambers, Feb. 28, 1843; p. 564 - contingent appropriation of \$200.00 for repair of State House - 2/28/43.
- Vol. X - p. 98 - authorization to have lamps in the chandeliers of Hall of House and chamber of Senate "exchanged for lard lamps" - Feb. 24, 1845.
p. 230 - authorizing sale of the lamps formerly used in both legislative chambers, and stoves from house chamber. - 5 days public notice required. Feb. 25, 1847; p. 228 - Secretary of State authorized to procure a table, six chairs and a stove for the library room for any sum not exceeding \$55.00, Feb. 19, 1847. p. 231 - Samuel C. Leatherbury appointed caretaker of legislative chambers and the library room and their furnishings at \$40.00 per year, Feb. 25, 1847; p. 437, \$300.00 appropriated for repair of leaks and other work on roof of State House, any residue to be paid city of Dover for improving the public grounds before the State House, Feb. 28, 1849; p. 612 - Samuel Brown appointed caretaker @ \$40.00 yearly, Mar. 6, 1851.
- Vol. XI - p. 131 - repairs to State Chamber (painting, papering, and draperies) @ \$100.00 - Feb. 19, 1853; p. 335 - authorization to refit Hall of House of Rep. - mentioning woodwork, papering, "drapery around the portrait of Washington," and "a new carpet"- Mar. 1, 1855; p. 339 - appointing Samuel C. Leatherbury as caretaker @ \$50.00 - Mar. 2, 1855; p. 340, appointing a committee to prepare plans for a new and more suitable State Capitol, reporting at next session - Peter F. Causey, John M. Clayton, Joseph P. Comegys, James A. Bayard and Henry Ridgely, Esq. - Mar. 2, 1855; p. 573 - appointing Zadoc Butler caretaker @ \$50.00, Mar. 3, 1857; 791, authorizing Secretary of State to have steps leading to outer doors of his office and of State Library Room rebuilt, appropriating \$75.00, Feb. 10, 1859; p. 794, authorizing \$1200.00 for specific alterations on second floor to accommodate Senate more conveniently - details supplied - Feb. 23, 1859; p. 797, appointing Henry F. Flowers caretaker @ \$50.00, Feb. 24, 1859.
- Vol. XII, p. 195 - authorizing Henry C. Leatherbury to sell the chandeliers, lamps, stoves and "other articles laid aside out of the Senate Chamber and Hall of House of Representatives," Jan. 31, 1861; p. 200 - authorizing closing of cellarway on south side of

State House, Mar. 7, 1861; *ibid*, contingent appropriation for repairs to roof, Mar. 7, 1861; p. 201 - James W. Wise appointed caretaker of legislative chambers [not including library], @ \$35.00, Mar. 7, 1861; p. 262 - ordering shelves for seldom-used library items erected in garret, materials labelled and transferred, Feb. 4, 1862; p. 455 - authorizing a stove and fuel for the Library Room, Feb. 11, 1864; p. 491, appointing Zodac L. Butler custodian replacing John Wyatt, absent from State, Aug. 10, 1864.

Vol. XIII, p. 85, 310, 656, appointing Z. L. Butler caretaker of Legislative Chambers, @ \$40.00, Feb. 16, 1866, Mar. 19, 1867; and Mar. 23, 1869; p. 306 - National flag to be shown upon State House during sessions, Feb. 25, 1867; p. 314, directing Frederick Craydon to repair roof and cupola of State House to prevent leaks, Mar. 22, 1867; p. 648 - appointing a committee to have above work done properly, Jan. 6, 1869.

Vol. XIV - p. 278 - appointing Z. L. Butler custodian @ \$40.00, Mar. 7, 1871; p. 267 - Joint Committee appointed to consider condition of the Public Buildings and make recommendations, Jan. 29, 1873; p. 677 - joint resolution "appended to the Report of the Joint Committee" re Public Buildings, to draft enabling legislation, Mar. 11, 1873; p. 684 - appointing Z. L. Butler custodian @ \$40.00, Apr. 10, 1873.

Vol. XV - p. 324 - Joint Committee appointed to prepare rules for Capitol Building; Report read and referred, Jan. 5, 6, 1875; p. 331, authorizing payment of outstanding bills (\$8446.63), and ordering preservation of the Old Bell, Jan. 14, 1875; p. 341, authorizing loan of the bell to Centennial Commission for exhibit; pp. 352, 647, C. C. Fulton appointed Librarian and Custodian, Mar. 25, 1875, and George H. Shakespeare, Mar. 14, 1877 (duties explicitly stated; p. 355 - repair and placement of portrait of Jacob Jones authorized, Mar. 26, 1875.

Vol. XVI - p. 728 - appointing Richard R. Kenney State Librarian and Custodian of the Capitol, Jan. 26, 1881; p. 753, Wm. Hunter appointed Janitor of the State Capitol @ \$100.00, Apr. 9, 1881.

- Vol. XVII, p. 535 - connection to Dover Water Works authorized, Jan. 3, 1883; p. 941, study of necessary repairs and furnishing parlor, Governor's Room, and offices of the Clerks of House and Senate authorized, Jan. 15, 1885; p. 963, negotiation of contract for installing steam heat by fall of 1886, at finished cost of \$2,000.00 or under, authorized Apr. 17, 1885.
- Vol. XVIII, p. 469 - Committee to consider refurnishing Governor's office and State House parlor, Jan. 11, 1887; p. 482 - appropriation for cleaning State House, Feb. 9, 1887; p. 496, accepting architect's plans for a new library building and ordering its construction after suitable legislation, April 13, 1887; p. 497 - repair of building occupied by Peter L. Cooper (State property), authorized, Apr. 19, 1887; p. 501, furnishings for Treasurer's Room authorized, and also screening for the "Jump Property", Apr. 22, 1887; p. 471 - furnishings to value of \$350.00 for Governor's office and State House parlor authorized, Jan. 12, 1887; p. 474 - Wm. S. Hunter appointed Janitor, Jan. 20, 1887; p. 477 - authorizing plans for new State Library quarters, Jan. 27, 1887; p. 976 - Library section of Governor's Message referred to a Joint Committee, Jan. 16, 1889; p. 981 - correct sewer connection at northeast corner authorized, Jan. 29, 1889; p. 986 - construction of a urinal in the Cloak Room authorized Feb. 12, 1889; p. 998, authorizing employing an architect to examine the State House and Library to determine necessary "repairs and improvements," Mar. 27, 1889, Mar. 27, 1889.
- Vol. XIX, p. 528 - ordering corridors refurnished with "suitable oil-cloth or cocoa matting", Jan. 12, 1891; p. 531, ordering a town water connection in the Governor's Room, Jan. 21, 1891; p. 533, committee appointed to study ventilation of chambers to recommend improvement, Jan. 22, 1891; p. 540 - committee to have State Treasurer's office papered and refurnished, Feb. 12, 1891; p. 543, committee appointed re "Jump property", Feb 18, 1891; p. 546 - committee to paper Governor's Room and repair furniture; p. 550, order for papering the Auditor's room, Mar. 13, 1891; p. 553, honoring a bill of \$305.25 for furniture for Secretary of State's office, Mar. 19, 1891; p. 561 - authorizing payment of State House janitor @ \$50.00 per quarter, Apr. 21, 1891; p. 570, authorizing collection of rents from and maintenance of Jump property, May 14, 1891; p. 575 - hoods over windows on

ground floor and screens for offices of State House authorized, May 15, 1891; p. 1192 authorizing changes and alterations in Capitol in accordance with a joint committee report, and furnishing of "the different offices", May 4, 1893, also authorizing repairs to the roof and bannister and stairway to third floor, same date.

- Vol. XX- p. 202 - Committee appointed re furnishing of State House parlor, Jan. 17, 1895; p. 219 - committee to consider advisability of erecting a State Library building, Apr. 18, 1895; p. 721, committee to consider report of commissioners concerned with addition to the State Library Building, especially to consider "improvement to the second story" and its use, Jan. 18, 1897; p. 730 - committee to investigate sanitary conditions of State House, Jan. 29, 1897; p. 731 - authorizing payment in relation to erection of "State Library addition to the State House" and appointing committee to consider necessary changes in interior of State House, Feb. 2, 1897; p. 746, authorizing payment of \$16.00 for use of "the telephone now in the State House", Mar. 30, 1897.
- Vol. XXI No pertinent entries
- Vol. XXII - p. 992 - joint committee to arrange for State use of first-floor offices of Court House.
- Vol. XXIII No entries
- Vol. XXIV - p. 692 - Committee to investigate desirability of erecting a New State House, Jan. 31, 1907.
- Vol. XXV No entries
- Vol. XXVI - p. 760 - Committee to erect a flag pole "on the State Administration Building recently built", Mar. 7, 1911 [State flag on this building, U.S. flag from cupola of State House]; p. 763 - State House Commission continued to permit completion of duties, \$25,000 appropriated for furnishing; p. 766, authorizing procurement of a portrait of late Thomas F. Bayard for State House collection, Mar. 17, 1911.
- Vol. XXVII, p. 849 - authorizing addition of Governors Pennewill and Miller to State House collection, Mar. 1913.
- Vol. XXVIII, p. 5 - resolution appointing a permanent commission authorized to make repairs to the State House as need arises, Oct. 1914; p. 693, authorizing Nat'l. Soc. Dau. of War of 1812 to erect plaque to James A. Bayard, Feb. 3, 1915; p. 696, permitting

removal of portraits and pictures for repair,
exhibition or copying upon proper receipt,
Feb. 12, 1915.

Vol. XXIX -

Vol. XXXVI inclusive - no entries

Vol. XXXVII, p. 900 - Thanking Thomas Jefferson, custodian, for
capable services, April 22, 1931; p. 864 -
committee to allocate rooms for attorneys and
stenographers of the two houses, Jan. 19, 1931.

Vol. XXXVIII to end - No pertinent entries.

LEVY COURT PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 1787-1801 - November-December; 1786: [p. 2]

"To struck towards the Building a Court House and public offices in the Town of Dover to be paid into the hands of Eleazer McComb, Esq. and Messrs. Charles Ridgely and Nehemiah Tilton, Esq. who are to purchase materials for that purpose superintend and employ workmen to carry on the work and conduct the whole matter from the commencement to the finishing the same - the Building to be erected on the public ground near where the old Court House now stands in such place thereon as may seem to these commissioners most suitable and convenient" 750.00.

November-December, 1787 ibid [p. 19] - fuller statement from same session; marked "The Court empower the said Commissioners to pull down and remove the materials of the Old Court House and offices and that they make use of such of them as are proper towards the Erection of the New House and that they have power to enlarge the present plan to any number of feet not exceeding seventy in front and forty feet back exclusive of a half octagon for the seat of the Justices of the Court, to sell and dispose of such of the materials of the old Houses as cannot be used and that the new Building shall be erected on the publick ground between the Houses of Samuel Chew and the County Jail so as to have an alley at each end."

November-December, 1788 [p. 24] - Nicholas Ridgely and John Corker pd. 3 and 2:10 respectively as reimbursement for "the rails around his lots burned by the person employed to make bricks for the State House."

ibid p. [25] - "To David Harper for repairing the public [premises] and preparing the State House for the last annual Election."

ibid [p. 29] - fees to Drs. James Sykes, James Tilton, Edward Miller and Wm. Molleston for "attendance on Jno Hudson [Thos. Vandiver, Wm. Bostick, W. Draper, Wm. Howell, Joseph Seal and Alex McCoy] who was hurt in raising the roof of the State House" and [Hudson only] "reducing his luxated wrist".

ibid p. 29 - "To struck for the purpose of Finishing the State House so far as the same will extend, to be paid into the hands of Nehemiah Tilton and Eleazer McComb, Esqs. Commissioners heretofore appointed for superintending said work"

July, 1789, special session for levying a special rate to raise \$200 additional taxes agreeable to Act of Assembly

November sessions 1789 [p. 33]
"John Clayton, John Banning and Richard Bassett, Esquires appointed Commissioners for the Court House in the Town of Dover in the place of Charles Ridgely, dec'd and Eleazer McComb and Nehemiah Tilton who have removed out of the county. May Session 1790, poet James Sykes is appointed in the room of Mr. Banning who declined."

ibid sums pd. Elizabeth Butler for rent of a house to contain the Books and Records (belonging to the Recorders Office; Thos. Wild for rent for his house; 8 months, for like service; and James McClyment for rent of a room for keeping the papers of Francis Maney's office.

November-December, 1789 - "Paid David Harper for work done in the Court House to fit it for holding the Election."

ibid "To struck for the purpose of finishing the State House in the Town of Dover so far as the Same will extend to be paid into the hands of John Clayton, John Banning and Richard Bassett, Commissioners hertofore appointed in place of those deade and removed out of the county...." 375

[ibid] - Past and present State Treasurers authorized to pay over to the former Commissioners any funds in their hands for which the latter are accountable, December 18, 1789.

November-December 1790 - To Thos. Wild for rent of a house for Registers and Recorders offices, December 1789-April, 1790.

ibid. - "Struck for purpose of finishing the State House or for carrying on the work" 375

November 22, 1791 "....at the same time the Court took into consideration the necessity of appointing some fit person to take care of the Court House to keep it clean to provide a sufficient quantity of good hickory wood to be deposited in the cellar under the same house for the use of the several courts to be held in this County to employ some persons to clean the cellars and remove the rubbish thereout and to do and perform all things necessary in the premises, and Thomas Wild was appointed for that purpose...."

ibid 22-10-0 appropriated to be paid quarterly to T. Wild for janitorial services and wood.

Folder 1787 Court House Commission

Petition for permission to tear down old court house and offices to "make use of the Hard Bricks found in those buildings for the foundation of the new;" submit a contract [now missing] for supplying bricks for the court House; suggest a building 40' x 60', but believe an extension of feet would be better, allowing space for a gallery in the legislative chambers; 16,000 additional feet of board and plank now seasoning for delivery to Forest landing in April; scantling and lime should be ordered for spring delivery. Locally secured materials and labor will be paid by orders on County Treasurer.

Bill, December 19, 1787

Items include: digging clay for bricks; Kiln of bricks, 41,500; making and burning 200,000 bricks; 3,000 ft. boards; 3129 ft. of inch bd., 3279 of 1 1/4, 1135 of 1 1/2, 954 of 2", and 982 inch Sap [sic]

Folder 1788 Court House Commission

Letter, Eleazer MCombs from Jacob Broom, Mar. 3, 1788, recommending Isaac Jackson for the "brickwork of the Public Building." Vouchers drawn against Court House and public offices building account, bills for materials and services; physicians' itemized bills for attendance and drugs; for three persons injured in the Court House accident.

Folder 1788-1790 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

This is a certified copy of a portion of 1786-1801 record.

Folder 1789 Court House Commission

Accounts - Aug. 1789 - painting the cornish [sic] of Court House; glazing 1208 Lights of Sashes; Joseph Carson pd for glass, paint and oils, Joshua Seal for bricks, Alludes to "sale of the roof of the offices, and of sundry materials of the Old Court House." Account also mentions "the spire, vane and Balls locks, Iron bars... etc. belonging to the old Court House and offices, in Dr. Tilton's garrett;" also "Two large open

stoves for the Court Room, now laying in the Court House; Four pieces of Square Timber for the Columns; Timber for the frame of the Cupola." Lime provided for "Carrying up the Chimney tops and building the Battlements. Only part of the work is done."

Folder contains typed manuscript and original of account, and a large number of vouchers which do not specify the commodities or work for which they pay.

Folder 1790 Court House Commission

1790 - 1st month 10th - very detailed information of the accounts of Whittington Draper and Joseph Nock, Jr. for carpentry. Suggest photostating. [2 pp.] Mentions "Framing Octagon roof 336 ft. among other items.
November 1790 - Bill for 148 ft. heart pine, 172 feet of cedar for State House, December 13
November 27 -1790, Account of the surviving original Commissioners. Items include payments to Jeffrey Berry and Cato Tharp for digging clay for 200,000 bricks; making the bricks (Joshua Seal) cartage and "covering" them, at dates between April 6, 1787 and November 27, 1787; "To a bed cord used in taking down the old Court House," April 3, 1788", "To cash pd Alexander Givan for a plan of the Court House," May 7, 1788; "To 1 quart Rum at haling in the columns," April 15, 1788; "To cash paid for Stock Bricks for Facie," May 24, 1788 [What does this entry mean?]; "To Wm. Howell for a brick plane and hire of a Horse and Cart drawing dust, May 14. "To John Watson for digging the cellar and foundation of the House", May 14. "To Thos. Alston for bearing off 57,750 bricks June 7, 1788; E. W. McComb's hands for "assisting to get 3 girders and sawing off 4 stocks at his farm," June 28, 1788; "To John Ward for freight of Stock Brick". "To Pape and Comegys for 96 Khdds Lime at 231, freight and cartage of stone" December 8, 1788; glue & brads-December 29, 1788; " To Charles Hillyard for rum supplied Thomas Kirk; Brickmaker", Feb, 1789; "To lead supplied for the Octagon Roof," Feb. 10, 1789; dressing 9400 shingles Mar. 12, 1789; "To 1 quart Rum at Haling (Probably hauling) in the columns", April 15, 1789; moulding and burning 57,000 bricks, and 55,500 bricks, same date [payee not named]; "To Wilton Buckmaster for procuring 8 stones for cellar windows with freight," 4.3.19 Bar Iron" with porterage and freight, and "freight of 4 stones", all May 1, 1789; 500 ft. cedar boards, May 1, 1789; "Swaney and Benjamin for labor carrying up the chimney tops" July 14, 1789; "To Joseph Carson, of Philadelphia, for 7

boxes glass..., 100 lb. white lead ..., 42 gallons Linseed oil ...", Aug. 22, 1789; Wm. Kirk for 6,000 bricks, Oct. 7, 1789; "To 3 Hhds. Lime, 25 lbs. Oakum and 1 1/2 whiting procured by Capt. James Moore of Philadelphia", Oct. 31, 1789; freight on 6,000 bricks from Wilmington, do, 7000, Both Nov. 23, 1789; "To Richard North, stone cutter's bill"; "To W. Buckmaster for a Box glass", June 28, 1790; To John Wheelton for 3 squared Poplar stocks and 2 flatted ones", Nov. 1, 1789; "John Pinkerton and Sons for Locks and Hinges" Nov. 1, 1789; To ... John Killen for Sprigs - 1.2"; Nov. 1, 1789, "6,000 tin points used in Glazing the Windows, which Thomas Wild is to allow for in his account"; "To money paid Alexander Givan, as well on account of his services as in advances for work he engaged to do but was prevented by death from effecting it.", [undated]; 7,000 bricks purchased of Joshua Seal in Wilmington", [n.d.] (Recommend Photostating entire doc.16 pp.)

1790 Kent Court House Commission Accounts

- Nov. 27, 1790, recommends that Joshua Seal "abate" 10 still owing, "on account of the deficiency and waste of Bricks made by him."
- Mar. 12, 1790 - copy bill for interior woodwork Joshua Nock, Jr., Mar. 12.

1791 Kent County Court House Commission

- July 16, 1791 - scantling for cupola to be supplied. [n.d.] copy bill for interior woodwork, W. Draper
- Jan. 4, 1790, 1 stock lock for cellar door [to Richard Bassett]
- Mar. 2, 1791 - 1 pr. Brass andirons, 2-0-0, 1 pr. Sconces 1-16-0, 1 pr. Bellowses - 7-6, 2 pr. snuffers -5-, 1 pr. polished steel candelsticks, 13-6.
- Oct. 2, 1791 - glass lamp, 1-6-3, of Anth. P. Morris, Philadelphia.
- Nov. 1, 1791 - Marble hearth, 6 ft. @ 7/16 2-5-0, bought of Richard North
- Nov. 29, 1791 - "To making a sham sunflower & tassel"- 11-3- Thos. Jeffris
- Dec. 1, 1791 - "To painting and gilding a sunflower & tassel" Mich. Key, 1.
- Dec. 1, 1791 - [Copy - account of Eleazer McComb showing the above wire fixtures for light in entry.
- Aug. 9, 1791 - copy-bill for carpentry, Mr. Wakenan- 2 docs.

1791 Kent Levy Court (Building Account)

- Apr. 29 - 8 pieces of lead, 399 lbs., 500' cedar board, Sept. 30, 604' cedar board
- Jan. 1-December 31, David Davenport, includes: screws for lock, iron for lock to shut in, 14 knees, drilling and making screws for banisters, 1 plait, 8 straps for banister, 2 lb. beads, 10 sets of window hinges, and numerous bolts, screws, double screws, brads and other hardware.
- n.d. - Christopher Harton-moulding, ballasters, columns, and other interior carpentry (Copy)
- Jan.-June - Smith and Stevenson - 1 pr. butt hinges, 2 stock locks, 6 pr. hinges.
- Jan. 13, Griffith Coombs, Philadelphia, 750 ft. 1 1/2" heart of pine board, 450' of 2" poplar plank, 366 ft. poplar scantling, 8 lbs. English glue. - 1 oz. Isenglass glue
- Nov.-Decm. 1789, estate of John Baring, 1500 bricks, 3 pr. hinges; Mar. 1791, 5 lbs. glue, 2 lbs. putty.
- Nov. 22, Robert Catton, Philadelphia, 12 books of gold leaf
- May 20, Whittington Draper, 276 feet of window "shelters" - framing 2 pr. delivered previously.
- June 1, Jno McCulloh, Philadelphia, 240 heart plank - 55' of 5/8" heart of pine; 6,000 plastering lathes, 90 lights, 10" x 12"
- Aug. 9, Combs & Howe, carpenter work - including "Gemetrical staircase" [geometrical] (Copy)
- Feb. 14, P. Lofland - 2007' cedar board
- July 12, -Benjamin White, "11 days caulking and laying the roof of Court House."
- n.d. - Abraham Storm - 4 oz 1/2 of Kings Yellow (Is this a paint ingredient? Copy)
- April. 16 - May 25 - Thomas Reynolds, Brandywine, 10 turned Ballister(s) of Iron wt. 175 lb. @ 2/0-17-10-0, Receipt says "Iron Bannisters for the staircase in the Court House at Dover"
- n.d. - Front door - detailed carpenter bill (Copy)
- Oct. 28 - Charles Whitelock-Plastering 756 yds. of lathwork, 417 yds. of wall, and five fireplaces, ..."dubbing and levelling the posts"
- Jan. 10, Wm. Reese -hearths, stoves, etc. (Copy)
- Oct. 11 - George Kennard and Co., Cross Rd. - 20 gal. oil, 1 barrel oil, 4 kegs white lead in oil, 1 lamp black, 2 oz. Prussian Blue, 4 oz. yellow ochre; "patent yellow" expected shortly [This not clearly identified as a Court House acct. but 1792 acct. includes an item this date, for hauling paints and oils drum. Cross Road]

1792 Kent Court House Commission

- Dec. 16, 1790 - Salt for the stoves.
June 28, 1791 - 14 screws 2 1/2" long.
July 28, 1791 - 1 post for top of cupola
Sept.-Oct., 1791 - several purchases of "white sand"
in 1 or 2 bushel orders.
June 21 - Griffith Coombs, Brackets for sconces in
Court House chamber, 2 bead and flush boards on
each side of the Court House door
Feb. 27 - To working and pulling (putting?) up 24'
Cornice, putting up old cornice formerly put up
by Nock-Coombs & [Holt?]
June 19, 1791 - glazing 274 lights, in several groups,
Thos. Denny
Apr. 26, 1791 - 251' cedar board, July 28, 2040 18"
shingles.
Dec. 6, 1790 - Moses Whitelock - plastering 375 1/2 yds.
walls, 106 yds. ceiling, 3 fireplaces, rubbing
3 ceilings.

1793 Kent Court House Commission

- Mar. 5 - John How, "for making the frontispiece and sash
and for cutting away and lining beside the sash of
the Court House". [A fragment of an accounting
enters this item as "To How's additional charge
for the front room"].

1796 Kent Court House

- June 27 - James Wakeman, 1 1/4 yd. green cloth, 4 yd.
binding;
June 29 - Curtain finia [?], 2 lb. Spanish Brown, 4 gal.
oil, keg white lead, 20 lbs. whiting, padlock.
Report of Robert Clark, Commissioner, Jan. 5, 1796:
"The flat part of the roof has been covered with copper....
A sum has also been appropriated to the painting of
the shingled part of the roof, the window shutters and
frames, and the doors." A carpenter is making seats
for the Speakers of Senate and House but work is not
finished on them. Accounts, among other items, include
additional oil and paint not described in greater detail.

1798 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- To James Wakeman for janitorial services, hickory wood
for use of the courts, and ringing the bell, \$80.00;
item 51; to James Wakeman for window glass, \$2.36
[no number; dated mar. 27]; to administrators of
Nathaniel Hunn and James Sykes, Commissioner, for
boards purchased for the Court House, \$36.00 and
\$23.00, [Wed., Mar. 20th].

1799 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- March 6, order adopted forbidding Justices of the Peace from holding hearings of cases in the Court House; "keeper of the House" ordered to exclude them.
- James Wakeman reappointed caretaker of the court house - same duties as above, \$70.00; "To James Wakeman for balance of work done on the Bar of the Court House, \$26.66.

1799-1802 Levy Court Proceedings

- p. 22 - #5-6, reappointment of James Wakeman as caretaker of the Court House and authorization of 6 cords of hickory wood "cutting it short and depositing it in the cellar"
- p. 23 - 1800 James Wakeman empowered to "sell two Brass Locks which was purchased for the Court House, and with the money thereof to purchase two others more suitable for said House."
- p. 54 - 1801 - items #194-195 - Wm. Riley as caretaker of the Court House for 1801 - same wording as for Wakeman above.
- p. 56 - #213. - Wm. Riley for spikes and nailing down the copper of the roof of the Court House (April, 1801).
- p. 81 - Mar. 23, 1802 - Resolution ordering examination of a leak in the Court House roof and an estimate of the cost of repair.
- p. 84 - Mar. 3, 1802 - Renewal of Wm. Riley's appointment as caretaker, and order for six cords of hickory wood, #262, 263.
- p. 92 - May 5, 1802, Jonathan Manlove appointed caretaker during the incapacity of Wm. Riley.
- p. 93 - "At a special meeting of the Levy Court called and held at Dover on Thursday the 2nd December, 1802 - for the purpose of adopting measures to repair the damage done to the roof of the State House by the late fire ... "Jacob Stout and Jacob Furbee were appointed a committee to have the repairs made.

1803 Kent County Levy Court Proceedings

- [p. 2] - item #2 - Account for \$7.83 for lead for repair of roof approved [Feb. 1, 1803].
- [p. 3] - #7 - John Bayer appointed caretaker, and to supply hickory wood.
- #8 - List of articles bought for the county from the estate James Sykes, dec'd, former Prothonotary.
- Feb. 3 - [between #13, 14] order on the Treasurer to pay John Wild and Bethuel Watson 5-17 for work and nails for repairing Court House roof.
- 222 - Authorizing 6 cords of hickory wood for use of the courts to be deposited in the cellar of the Court House.

1803 Kent County Levy Court Proceedings (Cont'd.)

- #26 - Purchasing materials and having new doors made to the cellar of the Court House and repairing the wall of the same..." \$11.00"
[226 1/2] - authorizes building a fence, with one large and one small gate, around the Gaol lot and planting "ornamental trees in said lot..."

1803 Court House Commission

Transcripts of full text of first and third items abstracted above.

1807 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- Mar. 5, 1807, #64 - \$1,000.00 appropriated to the order of Nicholas Ridgely and George Cummins, Commissioners, "for repairing and painting the State House, [and] for paving [and] enclosing a yard before the same;" previous order appointing a commission to procure and erect "A flight of stone steps at the front door of the State House" rescinded and the appropriation for the work transferred to the new Commission's account.
#67 - Nathaniel Boyer appointed to take care of the State House, clean it and provide wood for the courts to be placed in the cellar; also to obtain and place a lock "in the garret story of the said house."

1808 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- #21 - Resolved that two stoves and the necessary quantity of pipe be purchased for the use of the Court Room of the State House ... that James Sarden ... be authorized to procure the same and have them put up in the said room with sheets of copper under them ..."
#64 - Nathaniel Boyer reappointed caretaker of the Court House.
fol. 299 - Nicholas Ridgely and George Cummins ordered to have the outside of the Court House painted, any other necessary repairs made, and from any balance of the funds in their hands, have the most necessary interior painting done.

1810 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- 246 - Balance of sum appropriated for Court House repairs transferred to painting the new Gaol.

1812-1815 Levy Court Proceedings

[1812] - #56 - N. Boyer appointed caretaker of State House.

#90 - To Nathaniel Boyer for boxing poplars before State House door.

[#91 - Detailed account of arrangement of poplar trees to be planted in front of the gaol]

[1813] - fol. #53 - Richard C. Lockwood appointed caretaker of the Court House

fol. #36 - "Resolved that the three cellar doors of the Court House be repaired and have good locks put on them [;] that a circular slat fence out of good w[hite] o[ak] board and w.o. posts and enclosing a back yard to the said Court House to begin at the corner of the said House next oto Sykes' stables and thence in a circular form and join the corner of the said House next Whip[ping] post - be 30 feet in the widest place of said [sic] fence to said House which said yard shall be sowed down in grass and planted in trees - the said fence shall have a gate three feet wide thro it to admit persons into said yard." \$80.00 appropriated.

[1814] [#69 - Allusion to "the Jail pump and the pump before the shiff office"

[1815] - Feb. 10 - #64 - a resolution, crossed out, implies that the yard work authorized in 1813 may not have been done.

1820 Proceedings of the Levy Court

#127 - Vincent Vandeford appointed caretaker.

158 - \$40.00 for making a "press" for the Prothonatary's office, 10 ft. wide, 7 ft. high, with "about 170 pigeonholes."

159 - Small balance of bill of Vincent Vandeford "for painting the State House."

1822 Kent Levy Court

Petition Joseph and J. L. Harper and A. Johns making repair of "the steps leading up to our offices, [which] from age, have become decayed, so much so, in fact that it is dangerous for persons to ascend them." - Endorsed. "Acted upon and money struck."

1831-32 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

Sept. #7 - John Manny ordered to "repair the platform and pavement at the south end of the State House" and render acc't in file. [no identified entry in February].

375 - March session, Messrs Clement and Denney appointed to examine upon and report "what repairs are necessary to be done to the State House."

377 - \$100.00 appropriated for repairs to the State House.

1832 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- 273 - John W. Many for "keeping in order and superintending the State House."
- 375 - Messrs Clement and Denny appointed "to examine and report what repairs are necessary to be done to the State House."
- 377 - \$100.00 appropriated to repairs

1833 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

[nothing pertinent]

1834 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- #309 - John Manney appointed caretaker, \$50.00 yearly
- #367 - \$20.00 appropriated to "Henry Todd for painting and improving the building now occupied as the office of the Cl[er]k of the Peace for Kent County and the Sheriffs' office."

1834-35 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- 109 - Putting up Brest work in the State House for the election in November last.
- 120 - An appropriation to "Elijah McDowill late keeper of the State House and bailiff to this Court."
- 123 - Henry Todd, repairs on recorder's office.
- 133 - Lock for door on State House.
- 248 - Door to cellar under H. M. Ridgely's office, brick work of cellar window repaired, and new sill to window of chancery Court \$15.00 Total

1834-42 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- Feb. 1835 - 157 - Putting up Brest work in the State House for election \$1,000
- 158 - George M. Manlove cleaning out Court House cellar; Elijah McDowell, late keeper of the State House
- 179 - Stock and lock for garrett door, State House.
- fol. #310 - "An act for the Building a State House" read and ordered entered on the Proceedings (Mar. 1835)-detailed instructions. Terms accepted by the County.
- p. 40.-Resolution requesting rent for the use of the Court House for U.S. District and circuit court sessions, hitherto supplied without compensation. Any funds so obtained to be used solely for suitable furnishing the court room or for adding to the law library.

- Feb. 1836 - #69 - Repairing lock on State House door
 - p. 11 - Joseph Buckmaster reappointed keeper of the Court House.
 - #149 - Payment to John M. Clayton authorized for drawing

a lease between the Marshall of the Delaware District and John M. Clayton as agent for the Levy Court.

- Feb. 1837 -#123 - Two resolutions concerning payments \$148.75 and \$51.00, the first a reimbursement to Commissioners for "money expended by them in fitting up the Court Room," the other a balance for furniture for the Court Room. Alludes to unspecified rent paid by the United States Courts. No. detail.
- Mar. 1837 #334 - Joseph Buckmaster appointed Keeper of the State House.
- Mar. 1838-following 330: same
#384 - Peter Adams, Keeper of the State House for the year 1837."
#394 - \$20.00 to be paid Joseph Buckmaster "for the purpose of making a door in the partition between the two cellars and putting a new trap door to the old." [State House?-#422 implies it is.]
- Feb. 1839-#302 - Appropriation for "two tons of stove coal" for use of the court. [Previous appropriations had been for wood only]. Also permission for Dover Lyceum to hold weekly meetings in the Levy Court room.
#447 - Joseph Buckmaster reappointed Keeper of the State House.
#449 - Wood for Court House.
- Nov. 1839 - #25 - Repairing windows in the Recorders office.
- Feb. 1840-108 - Stove repair in O[rphans] C[ourt] office.
#205 - Repairs on Court House \$20.13
#207 - Work on Court House \$11.36
358 - Joseph Buckmaster appointed to take charge of the Court House for 1840
- Feb. 1841 -#176 - Painting Levy Court room and entry.
- Mar. 1841- #413 - Joseph Buckmaster, "Trustee of the Court House" - \$50.00
#471 - Joseph Buckmaster appointed to take care of the Court House
- Feb. 1842-#188 - Accounting with Samuel M. Harrington, Trustee of the Court Room and Library Fund.

1843-44 Kent Levy Court Proceedings

- Mar. 1844-#173 - Joseph Buckmaster for taking care of Court House and furniture
Nov. 1843-#341 - Cash for coal for court.

1844-45 Levy Court Proceedings

- Feb. 1845-fol. #167-Allusion to Judge Harrington as superintendent for repairs on the Court House and Trustee of the Library Fund.

Mar. 1845-235 - Joseph Bringham for taking care of
the Court House
272-Charles Polk for stove for office \$10.00

1848-49 Levy Court Proceedings

#147 - Feb. session-Dover Lyceum granted use of Levy
Court room for meetings if not occupied by Levy
or county courts. Lyceum to provide own fuel and
light, assure care of the furniture and carefully
put out fires before leaving.

#170-Bench for Recorders office, \$3.00.

#178-Rent from U.S. for court room

299-"Taking care of court house"-payment to Thos.
Buckmaster, adm. of Joseph Buckmaster, dec'd.

313-Samuel C. Letherbury, Superintendent of the
Court House.

Mar. 14, 1849- #231-"John Wyatt for making jury boxes
\$6.00 when the same shall be varnished in
workmanlike manner."

#233-S. C. Letherbury for candles, \$4.40.

#237-To Sam[uel] C. Letherbury for keeping Court House
1 year, \$50.00.

#288-Repairs to plastering of C[lerk of the Peace] office.
Nov. 6, 1849.

#3, 4-to John A. Moore and H. Todd, al[lowances] for
stoves for offices, \$11.25 and \$11.00 respectively.

End of Series in main floor vault.

Laws of Delaware

Re State House

- Vol. II, pp. 999-1001, authorizing a lottery for raising 1000 for "fitting up and preparing chambers in the New Court House..." for the accommodation of the General Assembly; any surplus for "finishing and completing the said Court House", Jan. 3, 1791; 1023-24, supplement, Oct. 26, 1791; p. 1217, appropriating \$1066.67 for covering flat part of roof with copper and other finishing details, Feb. 7, 1795; p. 1363, Recorder of Deeds assigned lower room in S.E. corner, 1797 [day missing].
- Vol. VI, p. 391-392 - \$300.00 for repairs, contingent upon matching by Levy Court, Jan. 1825.
- Vol. IX, p. 564 - \$200.00 for repairs and painting, contingent upon matching by Levy Court, Feb. 1843.
- Vol. X, p. 437 - \$300.00 appropriated to stop leaks and repair roof; any balance to Town of Dover for "improving the public grounds before the State House" Feb. 28, 1849.
- Vol. XII, p. 262 [re transfer of certain books to the garrett], 1862.
- Vol. XIII, p. 314 repairs to roof and cupola, 1867
- Vol. XIV, pp. 329-333 - [re acquisition of full title, 1873]; 667, 677 [re committee on the condition of the Public Buildings]
- Vol. XV, p. 324, p. 331-332 [re payment of bills and reimbursement to commissioners; and re bell, 1875]; p. 352 - [re appointment and duties of State Librarian and Custodian, 1875].
- Vol. XVI, p. 254 - resolution re sanitary arrangements and general repairs, Mar. 24, 1879.
- Vol. XVIII, p. 981 - [re sewage connection, 1889]; 998 - committee to consider repairs and improvements, 1889.
- Vol. XXI, p. 546 - to paper Governor's room and repair furniture; 554, 560 [minor bills]; 575 - screens, and hoods for windows on lower story, 1891; p. 1154, repairs to furniture, 1893; p. 1158, committee appointed to alter office arrangement to provide adequate quarters for the State Treasurer, 1893; p. 1192, Treasurer ordered to make authorized changes, 1892.

- Vol. XI, p. 730 - committee to improve the sanitary condition of the State House, 1897; p. 731 re payment for State Library addition to the State House, 1897; p. 736, authorization of purchase of a flag for display during Assembly sessions, 1897; p. 757, committee to make necessary changes and alterations in the interior, and repairs, 1897. [State Library, p. 4-5, authorization of a wing to house, 1895; p. 219, resolution re committee to consider building, 1895 Query: was library in a separate building before this? Text implies this.]
- Vol. XXI, pp.5-13 - furnishings and repairs and assignment of rooms, police authority for janitor, 1898.
- Vol. XXIII, p. 59 - continuing annual appropriation of \$500.00 for heating, lighting, and repairing State House, 1905.
- Vol. XXIV, pp. 23-24 - Commission to make alterations and repairs, 1907. p. 692 - Committee appointed to report on advisability of building a New State House, 1907.
- Vol. XXV, pp. 6-7 - provision for administration and library building and alterations to State House, 1909.
- Vol. XXVI, p. 14 - ordering placement of a commemorative tablet in the rotunda, 1911; pp. 45-46, \$1,000 for heat, light and repair; p. 64, \$12,000 for extra expenses incurred in building library wing and altering State House, 1911.
- Vol. XXVII, pp. 14-16, authorization for securing portraits and historical paintings for State House; 17-19, assignment of rooms, 1913.
- Vol. XXVIII, p. 696, resolution establishing procedures for the temporary removal of portraits or paintings by the Portrait Commission, 1915. pp. 53, 68, appropriation for State House including \$2,000 for heat, light and repair; p. 60, appropriation for portraits and decorating, 1915.
- Vol. XXIX, p. 167, Commission on decoration of capitol authorized to procure murals, \$10,000; p. 70, 83, heat, light, repairs, \$2,500, 1917.
- Vol. XXX, pp. 38-40, authorizing a new building, on site of County building to be a "wing, annex or addition to the State House", architecturally compatible, and erected as a memorial to the Delaware servicemen of all wars; to be finished by Jan. 1, 1921; \$125,000 appropriated, April 2, 1919; p. 69, light, heat, repairs, \$6,000, 1919.

- Vol. XXXI, Special session, no entries
- Vol. XXXII, pp. 49, 63, heat, light and repairs, \$7,500, 1921
- Vol. XXXIII, pp. 48, 60 - repairs, \$2,000, 1923
- Vol. XXXIV, Pp. 20-22 - State House Annex Commission created, building to be at rear of State House, \$150,000; repair budget for this building alone not evident, 1925.
- Vol. XXXV, p. 68 - [Repair budget not itemized from this point].
- Vol. XXXVI, pp. 7-10, custodian's duties codified, April 17; p. 821, committee to investigate need for addition, Feb. 5, 1929.
- Vol. XXXVII, pp. 21-29, authorization to acquire land for, erect, and equip Legislative Hall, 1931, April 25, 1931.
- Vol. XXXVIII, p. 199 - appropriation for building custodian, \$27,500.00, of which \$9,580.00 was for operation and \$5,000.00 for repairs and replacements in all "general government buildings", June 15, 1933.
- Vol. XLI, pp. 118-121 - State House Building Commission For 1937 - Authorizing construction of a new office building primarily for the Secretary of State and Public Archives Commission, April 22, 1937.
- Vol. XLIV, pp. 603-604 - Creation of Building and Grounds Commission with duty, among others, of advising the Custodian of the State House on landscaping and maintenance, April 13, 1943.
- Vol. LIV, p.1031 - Transferring \$90,000 to State Archives for restoring and furnishing the Old State House as an historic building, July 7, 1964.

The official records concerning the State House are extremely vague. References are usually made to "furnishings" and small items- no complete description of the building is given. I've hunted for a travel account or 19th-century memoir which might contain a full description- There has to be one somewhere, but we haven't come up with it yet. George Purnell Fisher's "Recollections of Dover in 1824" tells about the houses around the Green and simply implies that the State House was the same as when it was built. Fisher is most interested in the fact that Charles Ridgely was killed in an accident during the building of the Old State House.

Joseph Scott's A Geographical Description of the States of Maryland and Delaware (1807) says, that Dover "consists of four streets, which intersect each other at right angles. The area, included within the intersection of the four streets, forms a handsome and spacious square. On the east side of the parade is an elegant state house, built of brick. It gives an air of grandeur to the town." The town at that time consisted of 120 houses.

In Executive Mansions..., see p. 158 and chart p. 283. Md. (1779), Mass. (1798), and Va. (1798) have 18th-century state houses still in use. Delaware's is older than the last two but it is not considered our statehouse.

The photos in the Wise book of Independence Hall may be of some assistance to you since we have no real written description of the interior of the building beside Mrs. Ridgely's recollections. It occurred to me that perhaps the Townsend Building of the interior of Legislative Hall is the best example available of what the Old State House should look like inside. However, it might not be suitable to point out anything in these buildings as exemplification since both are office buildings.

file

~~DOVER STATE HOUSE~~
~~NOTICE GUIDE~~

OLD STATE HOUSE, THE GREEN, DOVER, DELAWARE

GREETING OF GUESTS IN ROTUNDA:

Items of Interest:

#1. Location: On left and right of front entrance in Rotunda

Bronze Tablets: Inscribed with names of Governors of State of Delaware-- 1777-1792
1777 to 1955. (62)--"Presidents", not Governors, were Heads of State in Colonial
Days.

#2. Location: To left facing staircase in Rotunda

Marble Tablets: Inscribed with names of distinguished Delaware Officers in
The Revolution; Also Members of the Convention from Delaware who framed the
Constitution of the U. S.

#3. Location: To left facing staircase in Rotunda

Marble Tablets: Inscribed with names of the Signers of the Declaration of
Independence from The State of Delaware.

#4. DELAWARE STATE PORTRAITS

Location: South Hall---East Wall

SIX GOVERNORS:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Joshua Clayton | 4. Charles Clarke Stockley |
| 2. Caesar Augustus Rodney | 5. Henry Clay Conrad |
| 3. Thomas Francis Bayard | 6. Simeon Selby Pennewill |

FOUR GOVERNORS:

Location: South Hall---West Wall

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Anthony Higgins
(no name plate) | 4. John P. Cochran (Gov.) |
| 2. John Woodhall (Gov.) | 5. Joshua Hopkins Marvel (Gov.) |
| 3. Charles Robert Miller (Gov.) | 6. Charles Polk
(no name plate) |

TWO GOVERNORS:

Location: North Hall---East Wall

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Samuel White | 4. George Read--" <u>The Signer</u> of the <u>Dec-</u>
<u>laration of Independence</u> and the
<u>Constitution</u> " |
| 2. Benjamin Thomas Biggs
(Gov.) | 5. Henry Latimer |
| 3. Robert John Reynolds (Gov.) | 6. Thomas McKean, <u>Signer</u> |

ONE GOVERNOR:

Location: North Hall---West Wall

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Robert Pyle Robinson (Gov.) | 3. James Ashton Bayard |
| 2. John Middleton Clayton | 4. Thomas F. Bayard |

This part of State House (NORTH HALL) is the old part of State House, facing the Green--NOTICE here window above the entrance. This is said to be an exact copy in measurements, style, etc., of one of the same windows (Palladian) which may be seen in a market place in Dover, England.

(RETRACE TOWARDS Rotunda, bearing left, to ANNEX HALL--towards Tax Office)

DELAWARE STATE PORTRAITS: Location: Annex Hall----Left Wall

FOUR GOVERNORS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Martin Maltham | 4. Preston Lea (Gov.) |
| 2. William Henry H. Ross (Gov.) | 5. John Hunn (Gov.) |
| 3. Presley Spruance | 6. James Ponder (Gov.) |

----Right Wall

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. John Wales | 2. Eli Saulsbury |
|---------------|------------------|

ROTUNDA:

Item 1: Old Bell: 1763 (older than Liberty Bell; used in Kent County Court House on site of present State House); rang out vigourously to announce the Declaration of Independence.

Item 2: Name Plate: "Delaware", from Delaware's last Battleship--said to have been the first ship to use the GYROSCOPE. First oil-burning battleship; built in Norfolk, Va.; commissioned in 1910; in use until 1923.

Delaware State Library:

(Portraits are numbered from entrance into Library from Lounge)

1. ^GBunning Rodford, Jr.
2. John Vining, The Younger
3. John Dickenson (Dickenson Mansion)
4. Rear Admiral Samuel Francis duPont
5. Richard Bassett
6. Peter Stuyvesant
7. Nicholas VanDyke, Jr.
8. William Penn (age 18); copy Original in Independence Hall, Philadelphia
9. John Vining, first Chief Justice State of Delaware
10. Henry Moore Ridgely
11. John Patton
12. Sir Thomas West, Lord de la Warr for whom the State was named (CHECK PORTRAIT BOOK for further information)
13. "The Troops leaving Dover Green" in the Summer of 1776, led by Colonel Hazlett, to join the Continental forces under George Washington at Valley Forge (Col. Hazlett did not return). This painting was done by Stanley Arthurs, Delaware painter, in 1915 for the State of Delaware. (It is one of the Three Large Historical Paintings on the walls of State House.)

(RETURN TO Rotunda-----Pause at foot of Stairway----for view of the famous painting on stair landing (Note beautiful hues)

George Washington: Acquired by Legislative action in 1800 as a "Memorial to the Father of our Country"----by Denis A. Volozan

Proceed to Landing--turning right to ROTUNDA, second floor.

Item: See display of the design (State Buildings) present and future

South Hall----Second Floor: Paintings of famous Delaware Statesmen:

East Wall: TWO GOVERNORS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. James Frank Allee | 2. William DuHamel Denney (Gov.) |
| 3. John Gillis Townsend, Jr. (Gov.) | |

South Wall:

West Wall:

1. Daniel Oron Hastings
2. No name plate
3. Peter Foster Causey--Gov.
4. James Rogers

Supreme Court Room:

Colonial Architecture and Appointments; decorated by Pope & Kruse, Wilmington; decorated in 1952-53.

NOTE: Hand-carved Seal of State of Delaware, based on design of 1793, by student of the Brown Vocational School, Wilmington. Carved from a solid piece of mahogany.

Early American tinware used for scones (lighting) on walls.

Lecturn--raised or lowers to suit the height of the presenting Attorney to the Court.

To sharp right of Rotunda, facing the Green, enter Bureau of Vital Statistics:

(This room was the Senate Chamber used as such to 1932 when the new Legislative Hall was completed. The Seal of Delaware still remains on the wall. On the West wall is the famous painting of "The Crusaders", depicting the ravages of the World War (I) and the impelling spirit that enabled our soldiers to endure the many hardships they encountered. (It is said the spirits seen in right of painting are of Joan d'Arc, George Washington, and Lafayette. This mural is one of the three purchased by an Act of the Delaware Legislature by the State.

Return to Rotunda; facing north, enter Offices of Insurance Commissioner.

This Office and others were the House Chambers--also until 1932.

East Wall: The beautiful mural, "The First Day of Peace", representing the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. This mural was placed in the House of Representatives in May, 1922 as a Memorial to Delawareans participating in the Civil War. (Stanley M. Arthurs; Mr. Arthurs visited this Battlefield and wrote: "I visited the exact spot where this meeting of Grant and Lee occurred. The background was painted from a sketch I made at this time. In the frontline of the Army of the Potomac, which stood on the opposite side of the sunken road as shown in the painting, were Delaware troops. I think they were of the Fourth Delaware Regiment. On the hillside on the left-hand side of the painting Sheridan's Cavalry was encamped."



OLD STATE HOUSE, DOVER, DELAWARE

Second-oldest state house in active use in the United States. On this site Federal Constitution was first ratified, December 7, 1787. Faces on Dover Green, ordered laid out by William Penn in 1683. First colonial troops were mustered on this Green.

Dear Friend,

We are taking steps to have Delaware's Old State House restored as an historic treasure. We hope you will come visit it...

and our lovely homes....

when the Friends of Old Dover hold annual "Days in Old Dover" Saturday Sunday May 5-6, 1962

You are cordially invited.

Clara Farrow, Chairman

53744-R

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#62

OLD STATE HOUSE - DOVER, DELAWARE

Statement by Mrs. Mabel Lloyd Ridgely - summer of 1940

I came to live in Dover in 1890, and just before coming, I completed a course in architecture with Arthur Lyman Tuckerman. Mr. Tuckerman's family were New York people, and he had gone to Paris and studied architecture at the Beaux-Arts where he had specialised on the work of Palladio. In my course under Mr. Tuckerman, we started with the Egyptian pyramids, but nothing could keep him from concentrating on the work of Palladio. The three outstanding chapels which he emphasized were the Church of St. Giorgio Maggiore in Venice; the Villa of Malcontento on the Brenta near Venice; and the Theatre Olympia in _____.

The members of the class were saturated with the features of Palladio and the magnificent work in Venezia.

So when I came to Dover and found that in the later 18th century a New York architect had come to Dover and designed and built a Palladian building in the best traditions, I was deeply impressed. Three people much older than myself, explained to me how terribly this building had suffered at the hands of ignorant people in Governor Pender's administration in 1873. Chancellor Nicholson, Mrs. Deniah Watson, and others, told me that until 1873, the court room in the Old State building was beautifully paneled and embellished with a fine paneled railing around the bar. Also that under the Palladian window, above the entrance door, there was a landing from which a staircase came down to the main floor, in keeping with the entrance and the Palladian window on the second floor. It had been the custom from early times, on May Day to treat the children of Dover with lemonade and cakes brought out from the court room and distributed to them on The Green.

Chancellor Nicholson had interesting pictures of the State House before the changes made in 1873, but he was so furious to think how the building's beauty had been destroyed, that he did not even want to show these photographs. After the changes made in 1873, the Palladian roof was removed from the building and the belfry torn down. In its place, a mansard roof in the worst French taste was substituted, and a cupola replaced the belfry. The bell which had rung in independence in 1776, and announced all public meetings for many years thereafter, was placed in the State Library. The colonial bricks which were of a pleasant pink tone, were painted a kind of French gray; the white marble window caps were painted a dark, chocolate brown. The Palladian doorway was replaced by an entrance painted the same dark brown, in keeping with the mansard roof.

One day as the Chief Justice of Delaware Joseph Comegys was walking through the building, he discovered two portraits thrown down on the floor. One of them had had a piece of wood run through it. One was a portrait of Commodore McDonough which the State had ordered painted in honor of his achievements; the other was Jacob Jones who had accompanied Bainbridge to Tripoli, and in the War of 1813 had captured the British *Prolic* when he was Commander of the *American Wasp*. Without saying a word to anyone, Chief Justice Comegys carried these portraits away. He took them to Philadelphia, had them cleaned and restored, and then returned them to the State, with an account of the State's neglect written across the back of the canvass. Some of his diatribe remains. The pictures are now hung in the Governor's Parlor in the Legislative Hall.

Years went by, and the building, having lost most of its dignity, was further punished. When Governor Miller came into office in the earliest years of the 20th century, the Federal Government voted to repay to the

State of Delaware the money they had borrowed from them during the Mexican War, with accrued interest. Almost immediately some of the legislators set out "to tear down this old building which has seen its best days, and build a nice, new CEMENT building on the West side of The Green."

As I treasured all I knew about the Old State House, I made a report to the Colonial Dames in Wilmington, as to what was being considered. The President of the Colonial Dames at that time, was Mrs. Charles R. Miller, whose husband was the Governor. In New York, there was a young architect, Arthur L. Tilton, of the firm of Boring and Tilton. The firm was busy at this time building 1 libraries for Andrew Carnegie. But when a member of my family implored him to come and make a survey of the building to see if it was possible and wise to restore it, he consented. He was an archaeologist, as well as an architect. Without demanding a fee from the Colonial Dames, he came. He made a complete survey, decided that the foundations and maintaining walls were strong and fine, and that it would be an easy matter to restore the building to its original beauty. Mrs. Miller and a group of the Colonial Dames officers petitioned the Governor to have this done. The Legislature at first was furious. They insisted a nice new cement building should be built, and the old building destroyed. But we finally induced them to consent to the restoration of the Palladian building. Later on, they consented to employ Mr. Tilton to make the restoration, and for that, he did receive a fee. He was anxious to save another valuable building, the home of Samuel Chew, the father of the Chief Justice Benjamin Chew of Pennsylvania, which stood where the State Law Library now stands. This idea did not please the cement-minded members of the Legislature, and they said to the committee of Colonial Dames: "If you don't stop talking about saving this old building, we will not consent to any of this restoration. However, if you will consent to destroy the Chew property, we will

allow the Old State House to be restored." This was the best deal we could make, and we consented, though reluctantly.

Back of the Chew mansion, was a beautiful garden. All through the spring, when building operations started, I made cakes and pitchers of lemonade, and took them to the workmen who received them gratefully. I implored them to do nothing to destroy the beautiful garden. Mrs. Charles Miller, who had a home in Wilmington and wanted to plant more boxwood, would gladly have taken some from the Chew garden, but refrained. A little later in the summer, she went to Europe, and I went with my family to New England. When we returned, every vestige of the beautiful garden back of the Chew house had been destroyed, the home was leveled, and now the State Law Library stands where the Chew House had been. Back of it is a drive in, but with no vestige of the old garden left.

Mr. Tilton on leaving, left some beautiful drawings of the restored State House and a quantity of data. In the center of the building itself, he exposed a pillar which had been a part of the Palladian staircase, and which he said would make it possible for any intelligent architect or archaeologist to restore the staircase. The drawings were left with me as a member of the Colonial Dames who had negotiated with him, but I felt that they belonged to the Secretary of State and later they were sent to his office. He felt he had no room for them, and they were thrown away. Among them, was a very beautiful drawing of the building.

I feel that it is necessary for the author of the book on Old Delaware Buildings to know that this ancient building with its lovely embellishments of paneling and detail, has been ruthlessly neglected by the citizens of Delaware. Except for a few of the older people in Dover who talk of their devotion to it, no one in this state seems to care; and yet it is one of the oldest state buildings on the Atlantic seaboard.

It is being weakened year by year by poor treatment, shabby electric wiring, crowded conditions, and if something isn't done very shortly to maintain its strength, it will fall into complete decay.

I would like to close by saying that I regret that William Penn so often spoke of the three lower counties of Delaware. Perhaps if he could have foreseen that they would become the State of Delaware, the citizens of the other parts of the State would feel they share with Dover the responsibility of saving this old building. In more recent years, Mrs. William S. Milles, a daughter of Senator Thomas F. Bayard, carved a fine frame to hold the State House bell, which had rung in independence in Delaware and called the citizens of Delaware to meetings, when important political events took place. That bell is now kept in a spot fit only for rubbish.

— Mrs. Henry Ridgely
The Green
Dover, Delaware

* * * * *

An additional story:

One hot July day, I was washing my hair. I was a vigilante. A man came over from the State House and said to Sally, my kitchen maid - "Mrs. Ridgely, can they take the roof off the State House?" I came to the head of the stairs, and I said, "Take the roof off; everything is cleaned out." Probably this was the most informal decision in history affecting the restoration of a building.

The Green, Dover, Delaware
February 3, 1958

The Hon. J. Caleb Boggs,
Governor of Delaware,
Legislative Hall
Dover, Delaware.

My dear Governor Boggs:

I should not presume to ask you to read a letter if I did not feel the subject was a vital one to Delaware.

I came to live on the Green in 1895 and as I had studied architecture with Arthur Lyman Tuckerman in the Metropolitan Museum Art School I was at once impressed with the historic State House of 1791. In 1909, Governor Charles Miller in office, the Federal Government gave back to the State the sum Delaware had loaned in the Mexican War years with accrued interest. It was proposed then to demolish the old building and build what an eager Legislator called "a nice, new cement building" on the west side of the Green. This was discussed seriously. I was a Colonial Dams manager at that time and I reported this to the Board. In New York an architectural firm then building for Andrew Carnegie several very extensive libraries became interested and I induced Mr. Tilton to come and make an archeological survey of the old building. He was so impressed that he offered to make a drawing and explain the fine points of the structure without charge, provided the Colonial Dams would try to see that the State gave him a chance to make a restoration if one was made. This all came to pass. I was on a committee of vigilance and all our members were then enthusiastic about the restoration and as a body our membership is still deeply interested. Only the outside was restored but Mr. Tilton made notes and plans to explain where the interesting inside features had been.

In 1931, under Governor Buck, I was on the Governor's Committee to build the Legislative Hall and to make a general plan for subsequent buildings for the various departments. We had Norman Isham as our consulting architect. He was one of the foremost architects in this country, a member of the Walpole Society, and author of the finest restoration work in New England. He made a statement that I remember, "the Dover Green is one of the very interesting and valuable survivals on the Atlantic seaboard".

Mr. Isham made the model for future buildings to be in accord with the Old State House and the Legislative Hall. We purchased the land for the site of these buildings. A few years later the Buildings Committee, I think with Mr. Rodney Sharp as chairman, decided that land would have to extend to Lockerman Street on the north.

I was not then on the Committee, the Legislative Hall having been finished and furnished. Mr. H. F. duPont had worked with us on the furnishing.

I owned the land facing on Lockerman Street east of the Post Office and had been offered a very good price for it by the agents of the Packard Motor Company. They wanted to build a business building there. I refused this offer for I felt that such a building would destroy the harmony of the State's group of buildings.

A little later the Committee on the State Buildings asked me to sell them the land. They said they could not pay the price the Packard Company had offered. I was very glad to sell the land to the State for the Colonial buildings area but if the State does not wish to use that land for a building to conform to the object for which I sold it, I am willing to buy it back at the price they paid for it. Among the members of the Committee on the Legislative Building and the State Grounds appointed by Governor Buck were Mr. H. Rodney Sharp, the Hon. W. W. Harrington, Mr. Harry Cannon, Mrs. Henry Biggely. E. William Martin was the Delaware architect, Mr. Norman Isham, of Rhode Island the consultant.

In conclusion I want to say how relieved I am that the Legislature is arranging for a survey of the Old State house. I most seriously trust that the project worked out by the Committee in Governor Buck's time and adhered to this far will not be destroyed by a modern building introduced in this area.

I must add one more item. The argument that Colonial architecture is expensive is not true. This country in colonial days was not rich. When it became more affluent it went from simple Colonial architecture to Georgian and Palladian. Both of these are known in this country as Colonial but they are really Federal.

The are expensive because of the embellishments, handwork, marble, etc. The most economical Colonial architecture can compete with modern as to cost. This has been proved at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as witness Larson and Larson's work there in their restoration. Tall office buildings are a necessity in places where land is not available. The greater height of modern buildings require a heavier foundation and large areas of glass make heating very expensive.

Very earnestly,

David Bridges.

Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities

5 Courtney Road
Wilmington 7, Delaware

June 4, 1963

Dear Member:

As members of an organization interested in historical preservation in our State, I wish to call to your attention two Bills pending action in the Delaware Legislature. That body is in recess until June 10th, but after they meet again we hope action may be taken on these two important measures. Senate Bill No. 164 provides for the construction of a new State Office Building in Dover, the transfer of offices from the Old State House and the designation of the Old State House as an historic site, to be restored and administered by the Public Archives Commission as an historic building.

The Old State House was built in 1787, completed in 1792, and is the second oldest State House in the Country still in active use. It has been repeatedly threatened by fires and the daily use of it for office purposes will weaken and threaten this building, so famous in the history of our State. We urge you to write to Hon. Eugene Lamot, the Lt. Governor who presides as President of the Senate, and to Hon. Walter J. Hoey, Chairman of the Senate Joint Finance Committee, urging them to aid the passage of this Bill.

The second Bill, to which we hope you will give your support, is House Bill No. 275, making an appropriation of \$25,000 to the Public Archives Commission for the relocation and restoration of the eighteenth century building known as "Sign of the Buck Tavern", now located on the south bank of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, near Summit Bridge. The United States Engineers are widening the Canal at this point and they gave the building to the State for historical preservation, but it must be moved no later than July 15, 1963. This was a famous tavern in the history of our State and one at which General Washington stopped when travelling north and south. Our eighteenth century buildings are fast disappearing and it is imperative that we save the few surviving ones of historic importance. We suggest that you write to Hon. Sherman W. Tribbitt and Hon. Russell D. F. Dineen, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Your communications should be addressed to them at the Legislative Hall, Dover, Delaware.

We hope that you will recognize the urgency and importance of this pending legislation and give it your full support by writing, telephoning or speaking to these members.

Cordially yours,
(signed)

Samuel B. Bird, President

Friends of Old Dover

Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

P. O. BOX 44

DOVER, DELAWARE

May 31, 1963

Dear Member:

As members of an organization interested in historical preservation in our State, I wish to call to your attention two Bills pending action in the Delaware Legislature. That body is in recess until June 10th, but after they meet again we hope action may be taken on these two important measures. Senate Bill No. 164 provides for the construction of a new State Office Building in Dover, the transfer of offices from the Old State House and the designation of the Old State House as an historic site, to be restored and administered by the Public Archives Commission as an historic building.

The Old State House was built in 1787, completed in 1792, and is the second oldest State House in the Country still in active use. It has been repeatedly threatened by fires and the daily use of it for office purposes will weaken and threaten this building, so famous in the history of our State. We urge you to write to Hon. Eugene Lamot, the Lt. Governor who presides as President of the Senate, and to Hon. Walter J. Hoey, Chairman of the Senate Joint Finance Committee, urging them to aid the passage of this Bill.

The second Bill, to which we hope you will give your support, is House Bill No. 275, making an appropriation of \$25,000 to the Public Archives Commission for the relocation and restoration of the eighteenth century building known as "Sign of the Buck Tavern", now located on the south bank of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, near Summit Bridge. The United States Engineers are widening the Canal at this point and they gave the building to the State for historical preservation, but it must be moved no later than July 15, 1963. This was a famous tavern in the history of our State and one at which General Washington stopped when travelling north and south. Our eighteenth century buildings are fast disappearing and it is imperative that we save the few surviving ones of historic importance. We suggest that you write to Hon. Sherman W. Tribbitt and Hon. Russell D. F. Dineen, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Your communications should be addressed to them at the Legislative Hall, Dover, Delaware.

We hope that you will recognize the urgency and importance of this pending legislation and give it your full support by writing, telephoning or speaking to these members.

Cordially yours,

President

The Commissioners for building a Court House and Public Offices in the Town of Dover, beg leave to lay before the Court a contract they] entered into for supplying Bricks for that purpose, and a general account of Receipt] and Expenditures under their appointment.

They are of opinion a foundation of Stone is preferable to one of Brick, and would have taken measures to procure a quantity sufficient for the purpose, if they had been enabled by a proper supply of Money. The want of them, however, may be remedied, if they are permitted to pull down the old Court House and offices, and to make use of the Hard Bricks found in those buildings for the foundation of the new. If this should be agreed upon, the Commissioners conceive it will be proper to make some alteration in their appointment; that they may be authorized to remove those buildings, and to erect the New Court House on the Ground lying between the House of Samuel Chew Esq.^r and the County Gaol, so as to leave an alley open at each end of the building.

The Commissioners now Submit a plan for the New Court House, sixty feet in front by forty feet in depth, (exclusive of the Bow Window) to which doubtless some improvements may be made. If the building were feet long it would better suit the purpose for which it is designed, as the rooms intended for ^{the} Sessions of the two branches of the Legislature would then admit of Galleries for an audience when the doors ^{were} permitted to be open.

Besides the Boards and Plank charged in the Account rendered, the Commissioners have contracted for Sixteen thousand feet more of different kinds, ^{now in seasoning} to be delivered at the Forest Landing in April, next, which, with what is already provided, they presume will be

sufficient for the work. As soon as the plan is fixed upon it will be necessary to have a Bill of scantling made out, and the scantling provided in the course of the present Winter. Some provision also should be made for Lime to be delivered early in the Spring, in order that the work may be begun as soon as the Weather will permit.

The Money already advanced [is] to be speedily repaid-- the Commission[ers] should be furnished with money to pay [for] the Boards and Plank they have contracted for---to pay for Lime, and all other Materials for the building purch[ased] out of the county: But for the workmanship and labour, and all materials purchased within the county, it is their intention to give orders on the county Treasurer. This will prevent the necessity of their advancing their own money, and n[ot] lay the burden of payment upon those who have the power of enforcing the Collection of Public Money.

Dover December]
19th 1787--]

Eleazer M. Comb.
Charles Ridgely
Nehemiah Tilton

[on reverse]
Report of the
Commissioners
for Building a Court
House & Offices, in
Dover.

State of Delaware



Office of Secretary of State.

*I, John N. McDowell, Secretary of State of the State of Delaware,
do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of*

*In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and official seal at Dover this _____ day
of _____ in the year of our Lord
one thousand nine hundred and _____*



The picture of Dover Green used on most Dover Day programs appeared as an illustration in A History of Delaware, by Walter A. Powell, published in 1928. Lidel has found no earlier instances of it in this or similar forms.

V.C.S. 3-28-62



McCUNE ASSOCIATES · ARCHITECTS
WEBSTER BUILDING • CONCORD PLAZA
3411 SILVERSIDE ROAD
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19810

TELEPHONE
(302) 478-2062

30 July 1973

The Honorable Sherman W. Tribbitt
Governor, State Of Delaware
Dover, Delaware 19901

Re: Restoration of Old State House

Dear Governor Tribbitt:

I am pleased to present to you herewith a proposal for the restoration of the Old State House in Dover, based upon preliminary research at the building under my direction and upon findings to date by the staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

My proposal, illustrated by the attached drawings, is that the portion of the building facing the Green - the original building - be restored to its appearance when completed in 1791, inside and out, except that the shell of the first addition, built in 1835, be retained as a screen to help conceal what would be otherwise an unattractive view of the flat-roofed east portion of the Supreme Court Building. The most recently built east wing of the State House, the bridge that connects it to the State House Annex, and the Annex, itself, would be demolished; the space they now occupy would be developed into a small entrance plaza to serve the State House and to help soften the rather steep slope of the land to the east of the old building.

The interior of the 1835 wing would be completely rebuilt to provide a main public entrance on the east, exhibit space, a modern stair, an elevator and space for heating, air conditioning and electrical service equipment, leaving all of the space in the original building just as it was when first built and allowing the old front door facing the Green and the old stairs to be restored without consideration for possible heavy traffic of visitors.

My proposal was prepared under the assumption that the structure that joins the Old State House to the Supreme Court Building, containing an Entrance Lobby and Meeting Room serving the latter, would probably have to remain. If this were not the case, the Old State House could then be restored to its original appearance, standing free of connecting buildings. This would be consistent with long-

July 1973

Page 2.

30 July 1973

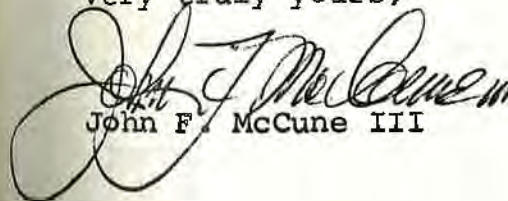
The Honorable Sherman W. Tribbitt

standing plans for the Capitol Complex and a more satisfactory solution, I believe, both architecturally and historically, even if it did leave some problems to be solved in accommodating the public, housing building services and access to the Supreme Court Building.

Accompanying this letter is a Proposed Schedule Of Restoration Work, outlining the work to be done and suggesting times for the completion of its several phases.

I will appreciate your consideration of the merits of this proposal as well as the suggestion made above that the restoration be made as complete as possible. With your decision, the design process can move ahead toward a completion date in advance of the Bicentennial Year.

Very truly yours,



John F. McCune III

OLD STATE HOUSE, DOVER, DELAWARE
PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF RESTORATION WORK
30 JULY 1973

PHASE ONE: Demolition Work within the original portion of the State House, consisting of:

1. Removal of all interior wood-framed partitions.
2. Removal of interior masonry walls that are not part of the fabric of the original building.
3. Removal of all flooring and subflooring on the First, Second and Third Floors.
4. Removal of plaster finish from interior masonry wall surfaces.
5. Removal of radiators and steam piping.
6. Removal of lighting fixtures, outlet devices, conduit and wiring.

This Work will permit more thorough research than has been previously possible and, further, will prepare the building for the restoration to follow. Bids for this Work will be received 6 August 1973. It is expected that it will be accomplished by the end of October of this year.

PHASE TWO: Reconstruction of the basic fabric of the original portion of the State House, consisting of:

1. Removal of present roof, cupola and masonry gable ends, followed by construction of a new roof, cupola (drum only) and brick masonry gables.
2. Reconstruction of previously removed, original brick masonry walls, fireplaces and chimneys.
3. Removal of existing windows, exterior door frames and doors, followed by their replacement with new Work of appropriate design.
4. Repair and reinforcement of the existing First and Second Floor framing systems.

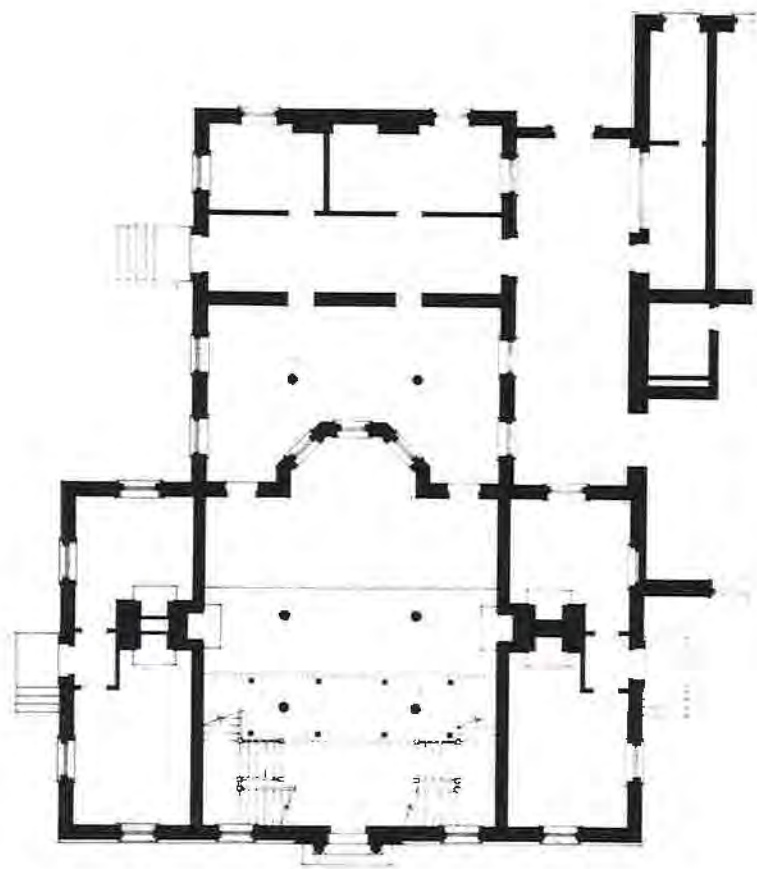
Phasing this Work in advance of the balance of the project will permit its commencement immediately upon completion of Phase One, without waiting for the development of construction documents, for the total project. Phase Two can be completed in about eight months, or by the First of July of 1974.

PHASE THREE: Reconstruction of the East Wing of the State House and the completion of the restoration of the Original Building, consisting of:

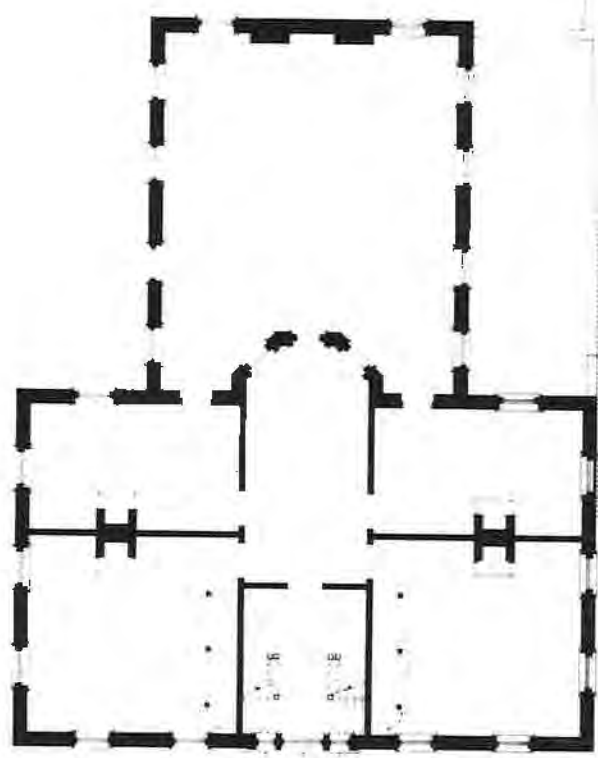
1. Demolition of the newer eastern extension of the State House, including the bridge to the Annex, and the two-story Passage that provides communication between the newer extension and the old portion of the building.
2. Removal of vaults and interior floor framing from the remaining portion of the East Wing, followed by the construction of a new masonry wall on the south, the construction of new floors in the East Wing and the application of new roofing.
3. Construction of a one-story public entrance lobby between the East Wing and the Supreme Court Building.
4. Installation of new wood windows, doors and door frames in the East Wing.
5. Construction and finishing of interior stairs, walls and partitions in the East Wing.
6. Installation of wood floors in the Original Building, construction and finishing of walls and partitions, galleries, stairs and other interior woodwork and trim.
7. Construction of a new cupola and balustrades on the roof of the Original Building.
8. Installation of new plumbing, heating, air-conditioning and electrical systems, equipment and fixtures throughout the project.
9. Construction of exterior site improvements.

At the end of Phase Three the restoration of the State House will be completed. The Work can be begun at the conclusion of Phase Two and should be completed in a period of twelve months, or by the First of July 1975.

PHASE FOUR: Acquisition of furnishings and appointments for the State House. This Phase can be mostly concurrent with Phase Three, with completion to be expected not much later, or by the First of October 1975.



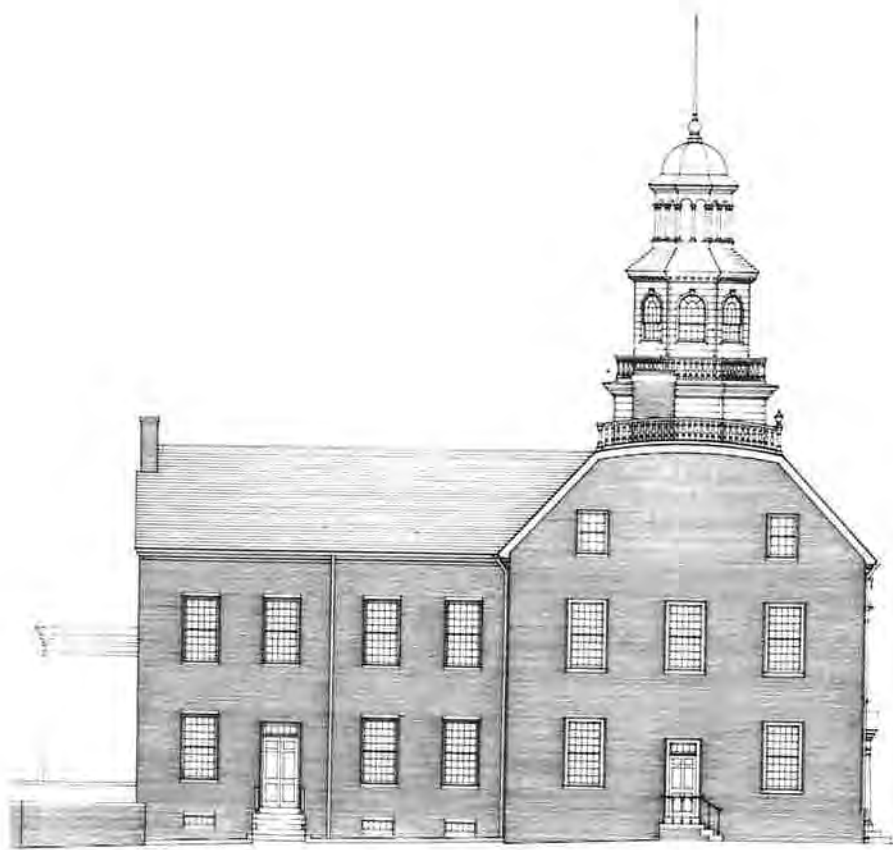
First Floor Plan



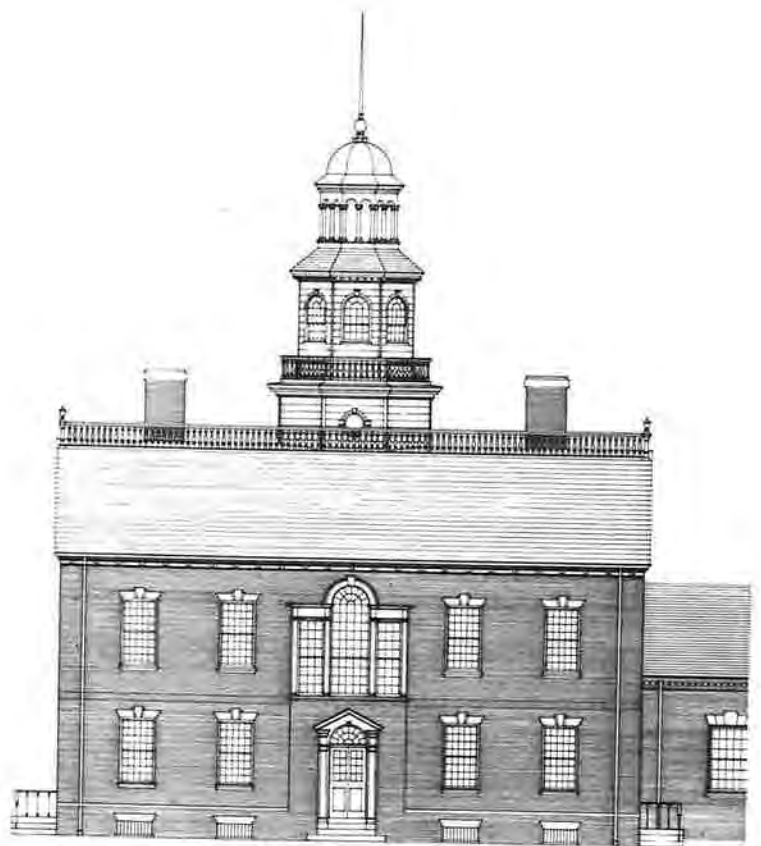
Second Floor Plan

Reconstructed Floor Plans
 Graphic "—" "—" Scale
Old State House
 Dover, Delaware

McCune Associates, Registered Architects
 Wilmington, Delaware



North Elevation

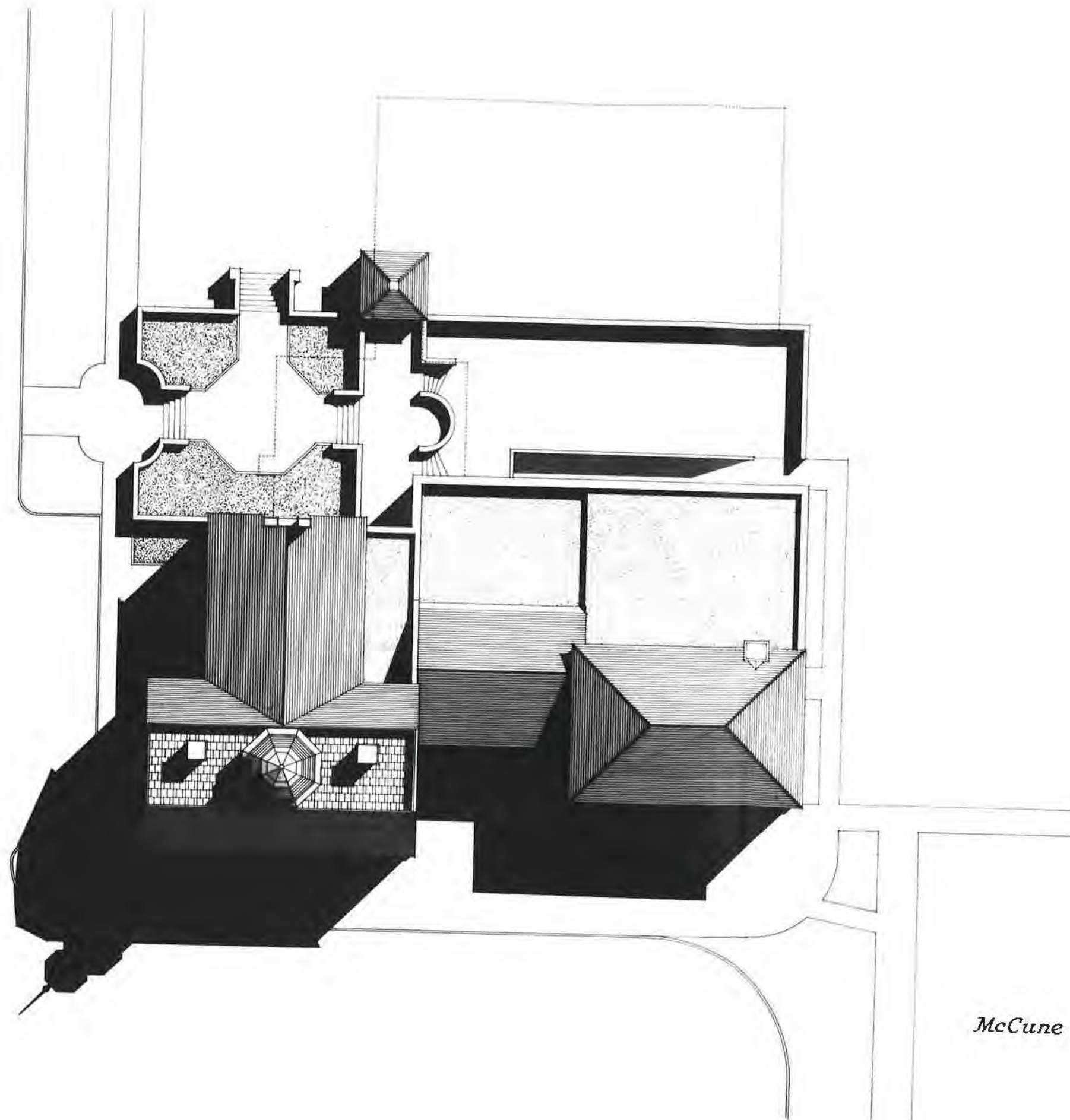


West Elevation

Reconstructed Elevations
Graphic Scale 1" = 10'-0"

Old State House
Dover, Delaware

McCune Associates, Registered Architects
Wilmington, Delaware



Proposed Site Plan
Graphic Scale 0 5 10 15 20 25 feet
Old State House
Dover, Delaware

McCune Associates, Registered Architects
Wilmington, Delaware

*Dedicated to the preservation and care of the historic heritage
of Dover and its environs*

Friends of Old Dover

Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

O F F I C E R S

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1967 Program

FEBRUARY — MAY

(Meetings on the 3rd Friday of the month)

February 17 —

RESTORATION OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE

When — By Whom — For What Use

HENRY R. HORSEY, Introductory Remarks

Speakers:—MRS. J. DANFORTH BUSH, Former President, National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware.

MR. CLARENCE H. EVANS, President, State Building and Grounds Commission : "Remodeling the South Wing for Use by Supreme Court".

March 17 —

THE PROPER ROLE OF DELAWARE HISTORY IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Speakers:—MR. DALE FIELDS, Executive Director, The Historical Society of Delaware : "A Program of Education of our Delaware Heritage".

MR. JAMES OWEN, Teacher of Social Studies, Christiana High School : "A Teacher's Viewpoint".

DR. WILLIAM J. HANFORD, Director of Delaware Educational Television : "Televised Channels Through Delaware History" and Film.

April 21 —

THE USE AND ABUSE OF HISTORICAL SITES

Speaker:—MR. WENDELL D. GARRETT, Managing Editor, Antiques Magazine.

May 19 —

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DOVER DAYS REVIEW

All meetings will be held at 8 o'clock, in Building No. 1, Delaware State Museum, South Governors Avenue, Dover, Delaware.

State House:

Gen. Ref # 62, 62 a, containing: The Delaware State House, by Leon deValinger, Jr.; Notes for Power Day Histories, c. 1960; Reminiscences of Mabel B. Ridgely about State House matters c. 1890-1910; memoranda re alteration & restoration 1873, and 1909-11, transcript of a report of the Commissioners for Building a Court House - 1787; memo re a certain illustration, legal papers re acquisition of full title in the state; accounts & documents re 1835-36 addition (6 items); accounts re 1762 alterations to predecessor building.

Scharf - II - 1033-1034 - General history of bldg.
Haws II - 999-1001, 1023-24 - Lottery, 1791-92
for finishing & furnishing S.H.
Conrad II. 526-591

Delaware's Official Insignia
Eberlein - pp. 53-55

Ex. Papers 1740 - folder of coats

K. Co.

1787 - ct. H. Com.

83

89 91

90 92

93

96

Notes on Other Topics Taken During State House Research

✓
✓ (OLD ACADEMY ~~Dover~~ 1

✓ 20 (South State Street and Elm Terrace, *Dover*.)

John Banning, saddler, on June 10th, 1766, bought of the Dover Commissioners a lot on King Street (now State) extending to South Street and eastward to East Street. Soon afterwards he built thereon a dwelling.

Born in 1739, John Banning was about twenty-seven when he bought the lot on State Street. Subsequent to his first purchase, he acquired thirteen lots "south and east of the Rev. Charles Inglis." These were close to the land on which Christ Church stands.

In the dwelling he built on the first-purchased lot, John Banning also kept a store. This store-dwelling structure of the mid-eighteenth century is now known as the Old Academy. George Purnell Fisher, in his Recollections of Dover in 1824, written in 1896 for his granddaughter, Mrs. Henry Ridgely, says:

✓ "Next comes the Old Academy I have heard that it was built by John Banning, the maternal grandfather of Edward Ridgely, for a store and dwelling. It certainly was used as a store, for it had the old hooks and other store fixtures in the cellar where were kept hung up, hams, shoulders, middlings, and the old time loaves of sugar and numerous other articles of trade."

During the Revolutionary War John Banning was active in public affairs. In 1775 he was a member of the Boston Relief Committee and also a member of the Committee of Correspondence. He had evidently built up a substantial mercantile business for his name appears repeatedly in the commissary accounts in the war years. For a time he was a member of the State Legislature, and he was a Justice of the Peace for Kent County.

Federal Constitution December 7, 1787; and in it Delaware, though a slave state, ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~represented~~ ^{represented} by ~~one~~ ^{three} ~~electors~~ ^{electors} in January 9, 1861, ~~seemingly expressed~~ ^{an unqualified disapproval} of secession.

The Old State House is the most significant unit, both architecturally and historically, of the Capitol Buildings Complex which collectively comprises the capital of Delaware, ~~was~~ ^{built} in the years 1727-1792 from a 1722 court house on the same site which from 1777 had been shared with the state, it incorporates the hard brick and other salvageable materials of its predecessor. ~~It is now the second oldest state House in the United States still in active administrative use. By the narrowest interpretation it is the location of congressional and executive action of the government of Delaware from 1792 to 1933, it is likewise the site of such activities 1777-1792 when considered with its extension. It therefore has the honor when the Assembly's meeting place was moved from New Castle to more centrally located Dover in 1792 the site of the~~

With its immediate environs, it is associated directly with most and indirectly with all of the legislative and executive decisions of the state ~~since~~ ^{since} 1777. ~~It was the sole site of the state government from 1792 to 1933, and from 1722 to 1873 of Kent County Court House also. Among the innumerable events that occurred in this building, on the premises it served as the sole seat of State Government, until 1873 it was the Court House of Kent County. From 1722 to the present this structure and the square it dominates ~~has been~~ ^{has been} while from 1722 until 1873 it served as Kent County Court House. ~~On the premises it and occurred~~ ^{Before it the Declaration of Independence was read and the King's portrait ceremonially burned in July 1776; it is on or very near this site that Delaware became the first state by ratifying the}~~

Minutes, - Votes of House of Assembly -
1776-1797

K. Co. Records

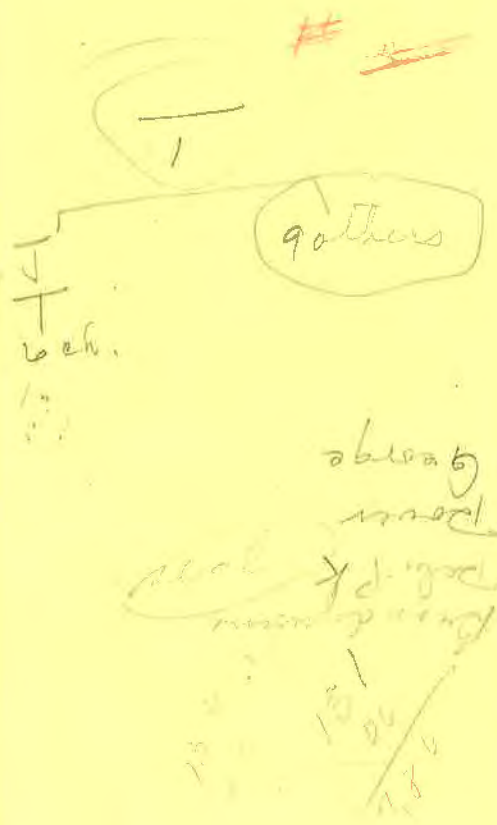
375 - Old plat index p. 38
New " " p. 43

Want - Plat of Milford c. 1807
c. 1932

Winterthur
Hagely
Del. State
Del Art Center

major

Zwaanendaal



Our policy, in the very few previous cases of failure to receive mailed photocopies, has to replace the order after allowing thirty days for delays enroute. In this instance, however, ten months elapsed without complaint, during

7.74
1.00
1.29
1.29
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6.21



Have checked:

Books

Scharf

Conrad

Ridg. Cal.

Pamph

Off. insignia

Laws of Del.

complete series; laws
and resolutions separate

Journals:

House, 1785 - 1791

" 1820 - 1827

" 1831 - 1841

" 1843 - 1847

1851 - 1864

1873 - 1883

House,

all, index

Sen., in.

part of year

Gen. Ref. # 62.

Entire contents both
pub. & MSS

Kent County records:

1 Aug Ct., Court House, Cannon

1783 - 1849 [all items in
main floor vault]

1851 - 1874, ending County
interest in building

No.

Rate

Burials

Deaths

Mar.

Div.

Infant Deaths

Hea

~~Harlanburg 5.90~~

\$ 3.00

George Harlan -
Pennobscot Township

2

9- Major Bibliographical References

History Of Delaware, by T. Thomas Schart, published at Philadelphia in 1888, volume II, pages 1032 - 1034

Historic Houses And Buildings Of Delaware, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Courtlandt V. D. Hubbard, published at Dover in 1962, pages 53 - 55

Delaware A Guide To The First State, edited by Teannette Eckman and others, published at New York in 1955, pages 125 - 126

Laws Of Delaware, passim, Journals of the House and Senate, Minutes of the Levy Court, accounts of the State and county treasurers and other documents in the custody of the Public Archives Commission at the Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

P - Significance

12th

20th

19th

Areas of Sig. -

Historic

Architecture

Political

Social/Hum.

To check -

1788-90 P. 69

[An Act to Approve the Resolutions
passed from Mar. 1780, &c.]

Enrolled Bills, especially June 11, 1788,

Jan. 29, 1791 £1000 for use of State - 1791-92 p. 74

Del Gazette, 1791, ~~1792~~ - Cont. MeT. Nov. 29 -

Dec. 31, 1791 for first setting; and in May, 1792 -
We have 1791 issues for pertinent period.

nothing pertinent,

Levy Ct. Books - General Entries

June 1859 - Special

532 - A. D. Bylos for map of Kent County for use of Levy Court, \$5.⁰⁰

Oct. - Cleaning heater and furnishing pipe 4.⁰⁰ [where?]

1860

Feb. # 184-185 re repairs & furnishing for County Building
159 - same
206

Mar. - fresh walk from County Building to the Public Prison

Apr. - 418 - Putting down old carpet on P. C. room floor [apparently also covered with coar matting of # 271]

1861

Feb. # 228 1/2 - "Haystack Guards" granted use of Levy Court room for holding business meetings and for private drill"

297 - S. C. Lethorbury for Bar of Iron in arsnell 2.¹²

Oct # 556 - "stable at the jail"

558 - ^{Henry J. J. J.} empowers mod to erect a cart and Wagon shed at the Northwest corner of the Jail lot on east side of stable and carriage house of Mrs. Sally Ann Ridgely, not to exceed in width ^{thirteen} feet, removable ⁱⁿ three months notice from County.

1863 - Feb. # 202 - ^{proposal that} prisoners' per diem board be raised from 30¢ to 40¢ per day; # 325 1/2 establishes rate at 33¢

Mar. - 302 - Sheriff and office of Orphans Ct. ordered to exchange offices by April 1

||

1865

Apr. 12 - 500⁰⁰ appropriated to repair of Mahon River Road, bridges & causeways, conditioned upon procurement of a steam vessel to transport fruit and other perishable produce, during height of harvest season.

1866 -

Mar. # 1275 - John L. Pratt, County attorney, authorized to take all necessary steps to secure to the County Benjamin Patter's logow.

Oct. 1835 - Mar. 9] - Dover Lyceum granted use of Levy Court Room for weekly meetings; James W. authorized to admit them.

Treasurer's Vault -

Shelf 9

State House Bldg. - Sam. DeGroot,
1937

Acct Bk of State House Annex Com.
1925-1927

Rpt of above, 1925

Accts of Com. of State House
Addition 1909-1910

Vouchers - S. H. Ormer Com
1925

1770 - Levy Court Proceedings
 1785 " " "
 1756-1761 " " "
 1762-1775 " " - Particulars
 1726 " " "
 1769 " " "
 1770 " " "
 1772 " " "
 1775 " " "
 1774 " " "

1834 - Levy Court Proceedings
 1834-35 " " "
 1834-1842 " " "
 1835-1850 " " "
 1856-1857 " " "
 1837-1852 " " "
 1857-1859 " " "
 1839-1840 " " "
 1841-1842 " " "
 1843-1844 " " "
 1844-1845 " " "
 1847-1849 " " "

1795-1783 - Levy Court Proceedings
 1776 " " Petitions
 1777 " " "
 1779 " " Proceedings

01773-1775 " " "
 01776-1801 " " "
 X1787 - Court House Commission
 +1788 - " " "

+1788-90 - Levy Court Proceedings - Particulars

01789 - Court House Commission
 +1790 - " " " Deeds
 01791 - " " "

+1791 - Levy Court Building Accounts

01792 - Court House Commission

X1992-1793 - Levy Court Proceedings

01793 - Court House Commission

-1793-1809 - Levy Court Proceedings

X1794 - " " "

01794 - Court House Commission

01796 - Court House Commission

01797 - Levy Court Proceedings

1799 - " " "

01800 - " " "

1801 - " " "

01803 - Levy Court Proceedings
 1803 - State House Commission

01805 - Court House Commission

01807 - Levy Court Proceedings

01808 - " " " Deeds
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X = item to be examined
 part.

O = item examined and
 part of it is returned
 or marked.

diff = missing part

Levy Court + Proceedings

Vol. 1728-1735

Nov. - Dec. 1734 - "

To Thomas Rodney and James Syts Esquires for viewing
the Publick Offices and such other things as are necessary for
holding the papers, etc. " " £ 2.5

K. G. Guardian Accounts - Ridgely

Sept. 10, 1791

Henry M. Ridgely; John Gordon, State Treasurer,
at 8:10:0 "allowed by the Assembly for two rooms in
your house during the session 6th 22. 69.

1847 - P. 365 - Tax on State - Revenue 47,000

General notes on other topics

copy

Vol. II. p. 574 - See 1st State pd. 1833 for transcribing index
& finding the Remission of Fells and Papers in accordance
with a resolution of Mar 2, 1835 - pro r. 5, 1857.

Attorney General ordered to investigate title of
J. Henry Keibers to certain historical papers advantage
the sold, notably "a deed of the Duke of York" Mar. 26,

1895 - favor IX p. 212 - p. 215 - (Mar. 29) Attorney,
General empowered to proceed to protect any rights of
the State in the above papers, and especially to a "deed
of feoffment of Duke of York to William Penn", p. 278 -
another committee appointed to examine papers. Apr 25,
1895 - p. 279 - Attorney - for order to discontinue suit

May 5, 1895

~~IX~~ p. 749 - Smithsonian, the State Librarian to raise the
"old Latin Bible" repaired and a glass case made for its
restoration, Apr. 26, 1897. p. 759. Committee appointed to
make necessary repairs & changes, ~~and~~ repair copy of
State House and install a fireproof vault for State papers,
May - 8, 1897

~~IX~~
~~IX~~
~~IX~~

The Old State House is a five bay brick structure, in the late Middle Georgian style, laid in Flemish bond in front and Liverpool bond on the sides, both well executed. The water table is topped with marble and marble lintels surmount the windows. There is a fanlight over the door, and above it a Palladian window. The shingled, hipped roof is topped with an octagonal cupola.

Except for unfortunate changes in 1875-75, which substituted a mansard roof and bricked up much of the central Palladian window, exterior alterations, ^{to the State House} have been in the form of attached wings, the earliest in 1836, the last in 1926. In 1910, the original roof line and five second floor windows were restored to their pre-1873 ^{appearance}. The enlargements occurred. ~~The interior arrangements have been repeatedly altered as space and need have dictated.~~

~~Jacques (Lafayette), a Huguenot born in France about 1645, removed from the first American residence in the Back Neck Road, New Jersey, in 1706, purchased a 600 acre tract in Back Creek, North Carolina, in 1711 by 300 adjacent acres.~~

in
 as a
 extended
 annex
 south wing
 separate
 pillared
 structure
 The interior
 House
 rooms
 restoration
 near future
 The State House
 occupies
 facing
 tree-line square
 also facing

as a brick two-story and basement wing is built in 1856 and
 extended ^{forty feet} in 1895-1897; a ^{rotunda and} south wing in 1910, and an
^{connected} annex to the east in 1925-26. ^{Just-completed work has} ~~been~~ ^{conducted} the 1910
 south wing was ~~converted into~~ ^{with note} ~~into~~ ^{into} an adjacent ~~to~~ ^{journey} ~~to~~ ^{connector}
 separate Supreme Court Building, and the high,
 pillared rotunda into an ^{inconspicuous} single-story, recessed
~~reception room between~~ structure between the two.

The interior of the ~~the~~ ~~State~~ ~~House~~ ^{as space and need regard} ~~is~~
 House has been altered frequently. Research is
^{well advanced} ~~under way~~ to determine the arrangement of the
 rooms at various ^{dates} ~~periods~~, in preparation for a
 restoration of the original unit, scheduled for the
 near future.

The State House with its later extensions ^{occupies}
~~the entire east side of the~~ ^{the east side of the} ~~square~~
 facing ~~the small square~~ ^{west} across the small
 tree-line square. ~~Also facing the square, on~~

~~The Old State House is the second oldest in the United States still in active administrative use. It remains the core of the Legislative Building complex is the most significant unit~~

The Old State House is the most significant unit, both architecturally and historically, of the Capitol Buildings Complex, which collectively comprises the capitol of Delaware. Rebuilt, in the years 1787-1792, it incorporates the hand brick and other salvagable materials from its predecessor on the same site, ~~erected in 1722, is now the second oldest State House in the United States in active administrative use. The building~~
N. 17
~~It is now the second oldest State House in the United States still in active administrative use. It~~

~~This building and its immediate environs, including the grounds are associated with every governmental event with its extensions, including temporarily seated quarters in private buildings and its immediate vicinity.~~

~~This building is directly associated with every public act of the State of Delaware from May, 1777, when the capital was transferred from New Castle to Dover. It was also the Kent County Court House until 1813. The unusual plan of expansion from 1777 to 1792 associated directly or indirectly, remains the symbolic center of the public~~

~~Dear Mrs. Orr:~~

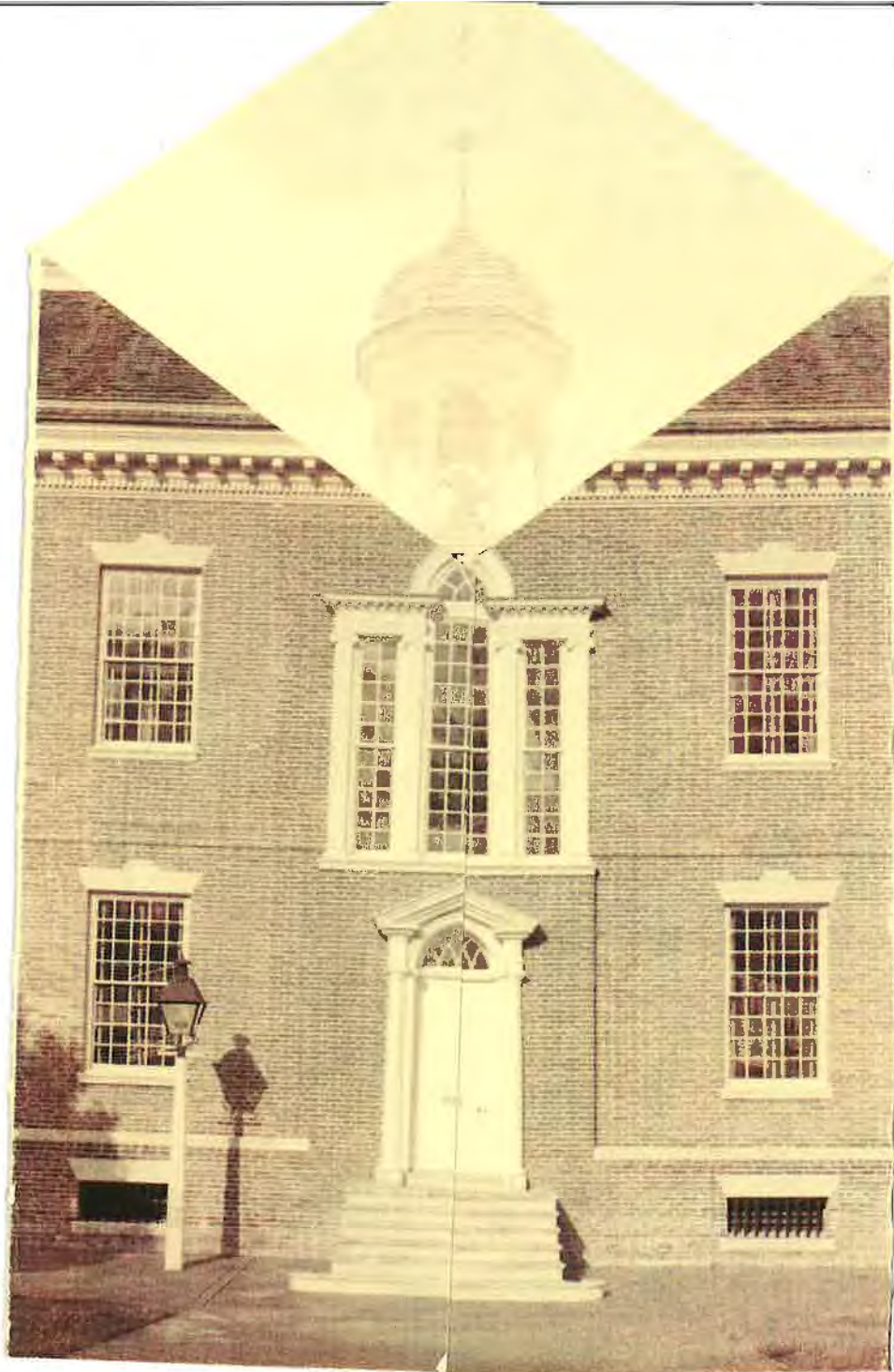
~~At your~~

~~Life at Delaware~~

The site became the capitol of Delaware when the government moved to Dover ~~from New Castle~~ in May, 1777, sharing the use of the Court House here as it had done previously in New Castle. The reconstruction of 1787-1792, ^{jointly by the state and County} gave more adequate quarters for both ~~State and County~~, serving, with additions, until the State brought the entire title in 1873. Until 1933 this remained the ^{sole} location of the .

The Court empower the said Commissioners to pull down and remove the materials of the old Court House and offices and that they make use of such of them as are proper towards the Erection of the new House and that they have power to enlarge the present plan to any number of feet not exceeding seventy in front and forty feet back exclusive of a half octagon for the seat of the Justices of the Court, to sell and dispose of such of the materials of the old House as cannot be used and that the new Building shall be Erected on the publick ground between the House of Samuel Chew and the County Jail so as to leave an Alley at each end.

The Court empower the said Commissioners to pull down and remove the materials of the old Court House and offices and that they make use of such of them as are proper towards the Erection of the new House and that they have power to enlarge the present plan to any number of feet not exceeding seventy in front and forty feet back exclusive of a half octagon for the seat of the Justices of the Court, to sell and dispose of such of the materials of the old House as cannot be used and that the new Building shall be Erected on the publick ground between the House of Samuel Chew and the County Jail so as to leave an Alley at each end.



THE HISTORY

The Delaware Old State House, built between 1787 and 1791, anchors the east end of Dover's historic Green. It served as the home of the Kent County courthouse until 1873 and as a seat for state government continuously until 1933. The restored structure is Delaware's symbolic capitol.

The Old State House played a role in many historic events and was at the center of Delaware's early social and political struggles. Its courtrooms echoed the nation's struggle over slavery and touched upon Delaware's critical role in the Underground Railroad.

This historic structure has been altered over the years. Restored to its original design, the Georgian-style building can now be viewed as it was seen centuries ago.

THE OLD STATE HOUSE GRAND RE-OPENING

25 THE GREEN, DOVER, DELAWARE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007

PROGRAM

RINGING OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE BELL
POSTING OF THE COLORS - DOVER AIR FORCE BASE HONOR GUARD
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (LED BY SECRETARY OF STATE WINDSOR)

WELCOME: TIMOTHY A. SLAVIN
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
THE HONORABLE HARRIET SMITH WINDSOR
SECRETARY OF STATE

GUEST SPEAKERS
THE HONORABLE RUTH ANN MINNER
GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL N. CASTLE
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
THE HONORABLE CARLETON E. CAREY, SR.
MAYOR OF DOVER

RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY
REFRESHMENTS
TOURS OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE

THE RENOVATIONS

The carefully crafted interior features a courtroom, legislative chambers, governor's room, and county offices. This majestic structure has been restored to its original splendor and preserved for generations to come.

A historic interpreter leads visitors as they learn how laws were created and applied, how trials were judged, and how punishments were handed down to different social levels. A restored geometric staircase allows visitors to reach the second floor. There they can view Denis A. Volozan's portrait of George Washington and portraits by Thomas Sully of Commodores Jacob Jones and Thomas McDonough, Delaware heroes from the War of 1812.

Admission to The Old State House is free of charge and the museum is accessible to people with disabilities.

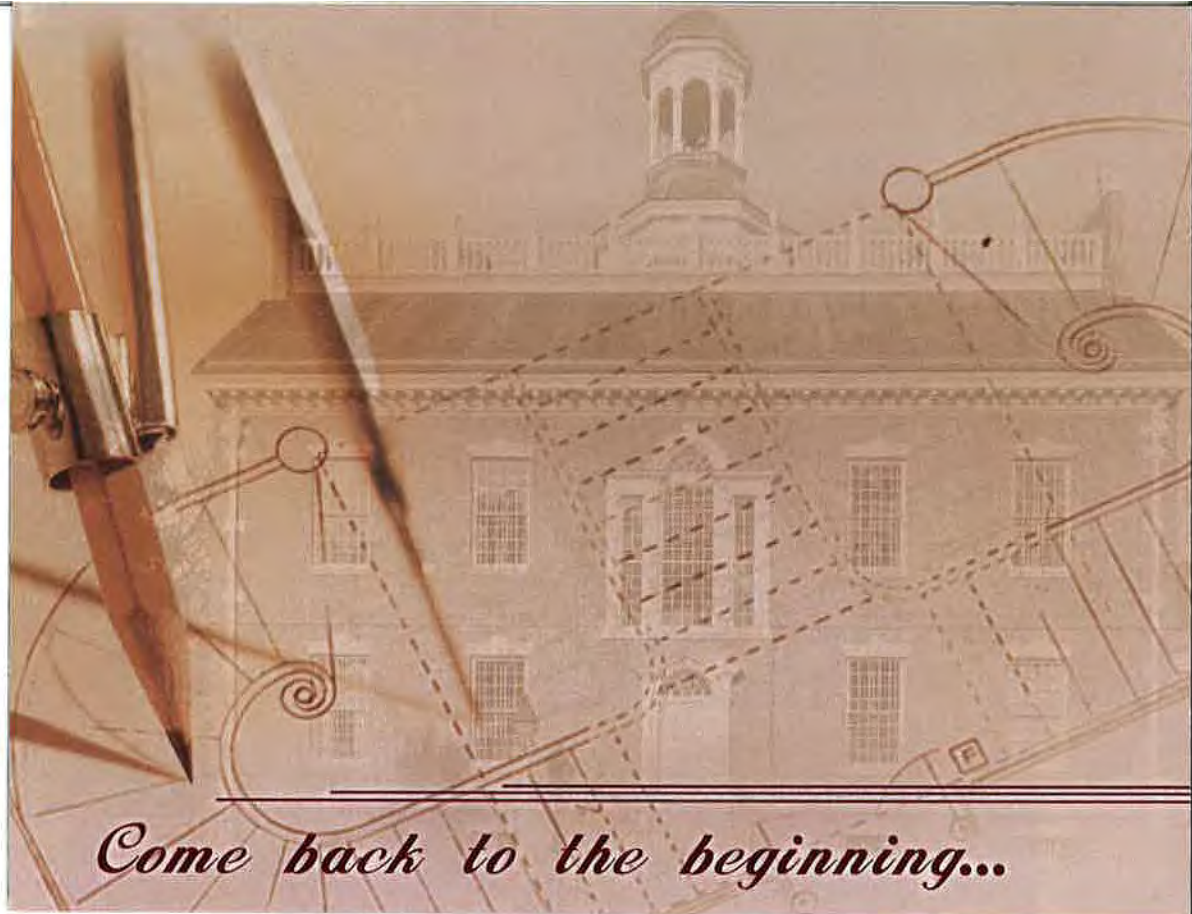


Visit us online at history.delaware.gov

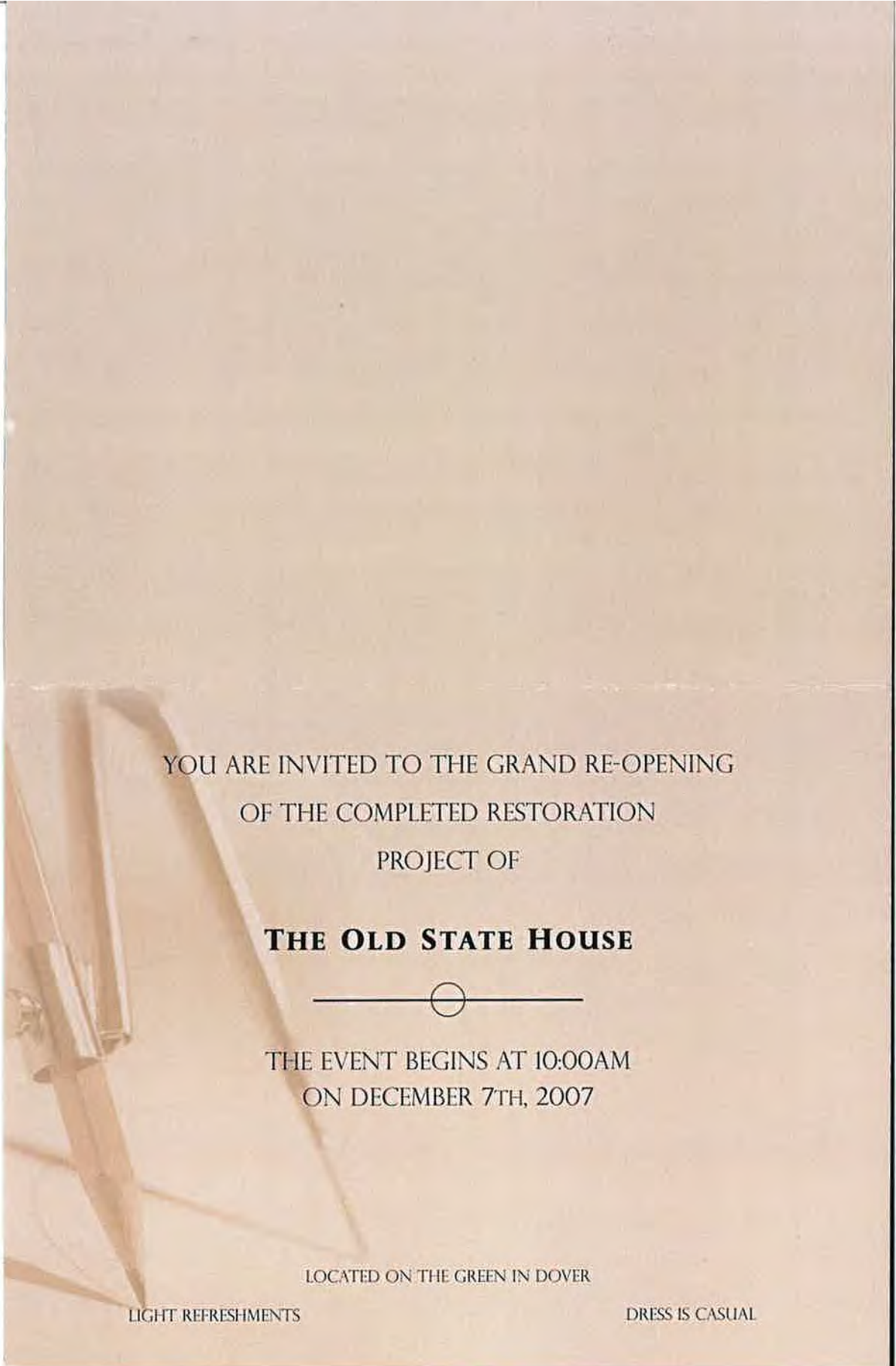
Our mission is to enrich the quality of life for all Delawareans by preserving Delaware's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality, and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on Delaware history and heritage.



HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Come back to the beginning...



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE GRAND RE-OPENING
OF THE COMPLETED RESTORATION
PROJECT OF

THE OLD STATE HOUSE



THE EVENT BEGINS AT 10:00AM
ON DECEMBER 7TH, 2007

LOCATED ON THE GREEN IN DOVER

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

DRESS IS CASUAL

DELAWARE PUBLIC
ARCHIVES

2007 NOV 23 AM 11:41



Historical and Cultural Affairs

20-06-06-11-02



Greetings

Expressing the sincere hope
that Christmas will bring to you
an abundance of cheer and happiness
this greeting comes today in the genuine spirit of
Friendship and Good-Will.
May the New Year be a year
of happy days for you and yours

W. A. Simonson



1722 to 1932

Old State House



ERECTED
1935

New State House

PRESS RELEASE

For Release Monday, March 10, 1975

Exterior restoration of Dover's Old State House begins this week, with removal of the 65-year-old wooden steeple. The roof will be replaced, wings will be removed, and the State House will be returned to its 1792 appearance. The restoration is being directed by the state Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs, of which Secretary of State Robert H. Reed is acting director.

Most of the cost is being borne by the state, which has appropriated \$1,350,000 in bond and divestiture money. Under the National Register program, the Department of the Interior has allocated another quarter of a million dollars.

The present roof contains parts of the Victorian mansard erected in 1873, which was remodelled in 1909-1912, under the direction of architect Edward L. Tilton of New York. According to researchers in the Historic Preservation Section, Tilton's roof is much higher than the 1792 profile, because he was required to include parts of the Victorian roof. Tilton was not permitted to restore the interior, which remained Victorian until last year.

Over the years, the oversize roof has contributed to structural weakening, which was aggravated by the loss of interior load-bearing walls. The new roof, to be built of lightweight steel along the original lines, will correct many of the structural problems. The more accurate new roof profile has been derived from the original accounts, which are preserved in the Kent County archives at the Hall of Records.

These detailed building accounts and other evidence have been translated into working drawings by McCune Associates, one of the oldest restoration firms in Delaware. John F. McCune III, the supervising architect on the project, has participated in several major restorations, including the Delaware State Museum, the Old Court House in New Castle, and most recently, Lookerman Hall on the Delaware State College campus.

Contractor for the project is Helco Engineering & Construction Company of Wilmington, who will also remodel the Supreme Court wing to allow an exterior passageway between it and the State House. Other work will include repair of the missing east wall portion, remodelling of the front, and reopening of the side doorways. Last year, the interior brickwork and framing were rebuilt by Mitten Construction Company of Dover. Original interior brick bearing partitions were replaced, together with the chimneys, on their original footings. All the timber work has been repaired or replaced where necessary.

The restored State House will be a separate building, as it was in 1792, with a large courtroom and four side offices on the first floor. On the second floor, the legislative chambers and two offices will flank a passageway and stair hall. The "geometrical" staircase, with its graceful twin curves, will duplicate the original, based on construction accounts and evidence in the walls and frame. The only pieces of original interior trim are three of the four courtroom columns, which are being restored by Mitten's craftsmen. A replacement column has been made to reproduce the missing original.

Denis Volozan's portrait of Washington, which was painted for the Senate chamber in 1802, will be replaced in its original position over the speaker's chair. This painting once hung in the rotunda of the south wing. It has been removed from its most recent site in the Supreme Court lobby to the Hall of Records for safekeeping.

Stanley Arthurs' heroic painting, "The Crusaders", which now hangs in a back wing of the State House, will be moved to the Highway Administration Building. Arthurs painted three such large pictures for the state; the other two now hang in the Supreme Court conference room, where they will remain.

The State House bell, cast in 1763, is the only surviving relic of Dover's 1722 court house. It was taken down in the 1873 remodelling, and has hung for a century on an ornate carved frame. The bell is exhibited in the Hall of Records, awaiting return to the State House.

Completion of the restoration is scheduled for the summer of 1976, so that the ceremonial capitol will be ready for use during the national bicentennial celebration.

RESTORATION WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE OLD STATE HOUSE

The Old State House has been stripped for examination by architectural historians; newer work has been removed, to expose the surviving materials of the original 1792 interior. Because the building has been remodelled many times, the architects must carefully analyse the evidence that they find in the walls. This evidence will be compared with written records and old pictures to produce plans for the restoration of the original interior arrangement.

The State House occupies the site of an earlier Kent County Court House, built in 1722. This earlier building became the state capitol in 1777, when the legislature moved from New Castle. By 1787, it was painfully obvious that the old Court House was too small to accommodate both state and county governments. The present building was completed in 1792, and served until 1874 as both State House and Court House. It was drastically remodelled in 1874, when the county offices were moved into the present Kent County Court House, across the Green.

In 1910, the Old State House was again extensively remodelled. The Victorian trim was removed, and the original style of roof was replaced. Although the exterior was partially restored at the time, the interior remained essentially Victorian.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is searching for old documents, pictures, and descriptions that might help in the restoration of the Old State House.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of any such evidence, no matter how insignificant it may be, is requested to notify the Historic Preservation Section at the Hall of Records.

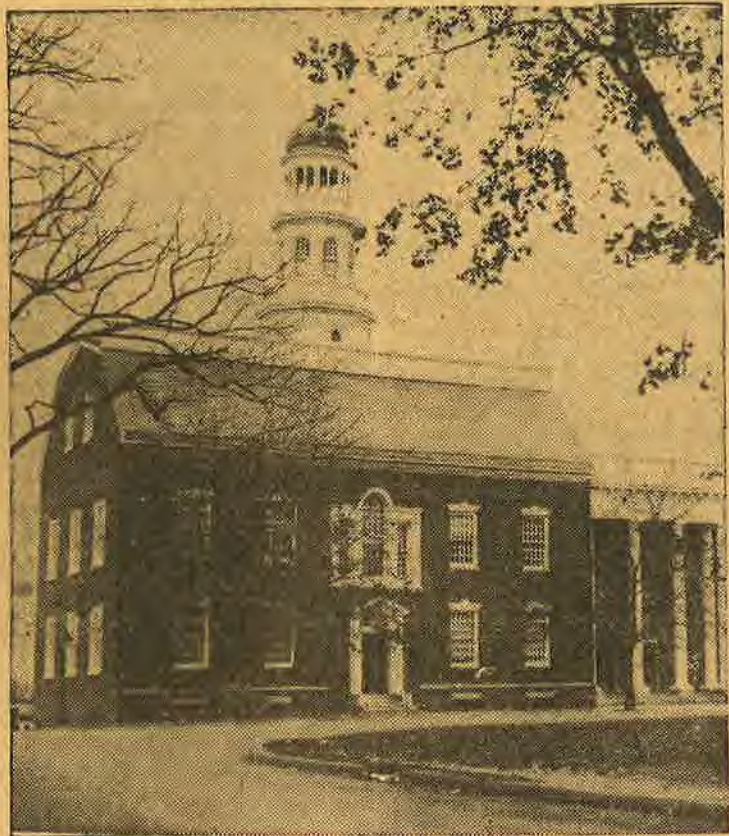
OLD STATE HOUSE

State of Delaware
Department of State
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Section

Hall of Records
Dover 19901

Lightning Damages Old State House at Dover As Storm Sweeps State

Historic State House Damaged



Old State House at Dover

Women and Men Rush From Offices as "Ball Of Fire" Spends Self On Copper Rain Spout

Smith Tells How Fire Was Avoided

Firemen Were Not Needed; Cashier Scoops Up Cash Expecting Blaze; Several In Courthouse Shocked

DOVER, July 20.—(Special).—Lightning struck the 145-year-old State House this morning, damaging the picturesque cupola, and plunging the building into darkness, during a storm which swept the entire state.

The damage is estimated by Secretary of State Walter Dent Smith from \$300 to \$400.

Women screamed and men jumped from their desks as the historic building was shaken by the bolt.

"The noise was as if great batches of glass were suddenly shattered," Marvel Watson of the corporation department said.

Several in Court House Shocked
Although no one in the State House was injured, several persons in the Kent County Court House on the other side of the Dover Green felt the shock. It is believed that the lightning traveled from the State House to the court house.

Miss Harriet Carson, standing against a screen door in the court house, was stunned and was about to fall when she was caught and led to a chair where she recovered her strength.

Roy Gormley felt a shock while telephoning from his office in the court house. Prothonotary Wilbur D. Wilds said his hand went numb while he was writing.

Spouting Prevented Fire
The Robbins Hose Company rushed to the State House, but no fire followed the flash.

The copper rain spout on the east side of the building, conducted

saving the building from fire.

The lightning struck at 9:45 o'clock, standard time. About two hours later, the skylight in the State Library Commission offices collapsed and pounds of heavy glass fell into the room.

Glass Piles On Desk
The glass particularly piled up on the desk of Mrs. Royden Hammond, librarian, but fortunately, Mrs. Hammond was not in the room. William D. Denney, custodian of the State House, immediately had workmen on the scene, covering the exposed parts of the building from the rain.

The State House is the oldest capital building in the country in continuous use. It has been the scene of many stirring events of the state's history.

Secretary Smith Describes It
Secretary of State Smith, from his office in the Legislative Building, which faces the State House, saw the lightning shoot down from the sky and strike the cupola "like a ball of fire."

"The lightning struck the flag pole," Mr. Smith said, "and like a ball of fire ran down the side of the cupola splintering the wooden frame."

"The flame then rolled down along the copper rain spout, across the motor titling department and down the east side of the building, disappearing into the court yard."

Governor Not In Office
Governor Buck was not at his office in the new Legislative Building at the time. He was in Wilmington presiding at a meeting of the board of directors of the Equitable Trust Company.

Throughout the excitement, Mrs. Blanche Cowgill of Dover, the telephone operator in the building, remained at her post while men and women were hurrying out of doors.

Cashier Rescues Money
In the scuffle as the men and women rushed from their offices into the corridors of the building and out upon the Dover Green, unmindful of the downpour, Mrs. Morris, cashier, motor vehicle department, paused long enough to scoop the money from the till into a canvas bag before she too rushed out of the building.

While firemen were giving the building a thorough inspection and workmen were already preparing to repair the damage.

The flag pole was severed near the base and clattered down the roof with a noise that added to the din of excitement and shouting of the crowd.

Secretary of State Smith was one of the few eye witnesses of the lightning bolt. He was standing at the time by the window of his office in the Legislative Building, attracted by the heavy rain.

"I saw the lightning cleave out of the air," he said, "strike the flag pole and then roll on down the

(Please Turn to Page 5, Column 5).

State House Hit By Bolt

Continued From First Page.
side of the building to the courtyard.

"As soon as I saw what had happened," Mr. Smith said, "I rushed out to my automobile and hurried to the State House. I was particularly worried lest some one was injured, and lest the old building catch fire."

"Some of the women were hysterical," he said but they were soon quieted."

Lauds Janitor's Work
Mr. Smith lauded the janitorial workers who responded to the emergency.

"Samuel Griffin, one of the janitors," Mr. Smith said, "was up in the cupola with the State House fire hose, looking for fire, by the time I reached the building."

Robert Benson, employed in the State House and a member of Robbins Hose Company, summoned the firemen. Dr. Joseph S. McDaniel, who goes to all fires in the event medical attention is necessary, was also on the scene.

Cupola Restored in 1909
The cupola is one of the attractive features of the State House. It was restored in 1909 with the remainder of the building, from the mansard type building to its original beauty.

The first building on that site was the Kent County Court House built in 1722. Sixty-nine years later, the building was reconstructed.

Moved to Dover in 1779
When the seat of state government moved in 1779 from New Castle to Dover, the old building on that site became the State House.

It was in the present day State House that Delaware's delegates convened and ratified the federal Constitution, thus giving this state the honor of being the first to approve the Constitution.

Visited By Thousands
The building is visited by thousands of tourists from all parts of the country, who admire the beautiful Colonial lines of the building.

The offices in the State House are those of the state auditor, state treasurer, state insurance commissioner, motor vehicle department, corporation department, state archives department, and the state library.

In 1933 the legislative quarters moved to the new Legislative Building.

The rainstorm that swept Dover today also deluged the entire state, bringing relief to the parched crops and general dry conditions here.

With several exceptions like at Dover, the rain was a steady down pour, unattended with lightning or thunder.

The Delaware State House

LEON DE VALINGER, JR.

Assistant Archivist of Delaware

THE State House at Dover, the second oldest in the country still in use as such, was built on the site of the Kent County Courthouse erected in 1722. In December of 1787 the Levy Court of Kent County authorized Charles Ridgely, Eleazer McComb, and Nehemiah Tilton, the commissioners appointed to erect the new building, to pull down the old courthouse and use the hard bricks for the foundation of the new building as there was not sufficient money for a stone foundation. This building was completed about April of 1792, at a cost of £2107/7/5. Contrary to tradition, the bricks used in this building were manufactured near Dover and at Wilmington, as is shown in the bills of materials purchased.

On February 9, 1795, the General Assembly authorized the placing of copper on part of the roof, completion of the battlements, the erection of stone steps, paving in front of the building, the erection of seats in both houses of the legislature and to share in the painting of the building, which was accomplished at a cost of £404 4 1/2.

Charles Marim, Thomas Davis, and William Herdman were appointed January 27, 1835, to a legislative committee with the intention of determining the expediency of enlarging the Assembly chambers and providing a room for the library. A favorable report was returned and in 1836 a two-story and basement addition, forty by fifty feet, was erected at a cost of about \$3,000. These improvements provided an executive chamber, secretary's office, and library on the lower floor and committee rooms on the upper floor in addition to enlarging the House chamber.

From the time the legislature was moved to Dover from New Castle, pursuant to an act passed October 28, 1779, Kent County shared its quarters with the legislature. The building was so crowded that it was necessary to rent a house near the Green to provide quarters for the Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills. At another time the records of the Deeds Office were kept in

a locked box in the hall of the State House. In 1792, the Constitutional Convention met at the State House, but, as the legislature and the Levy Court were both in session, the Convention adjourned to the Presbyterian Church. The use of the same building by the state and the county continued until the legislature appointed a Committee on Public Buildings in 1873, which reported that it was for the best interests of the state and of Kent County that the title of the building should be vested in the state. On April 3, 1873, the legislature passed an act appropriating \$15,000, which was the figure set by the Levy Court, to be used for the erection of a new Kent County building. This same act provided for an additional appropriation of \$20,000 to be used for the purchase and rearrangement of the building so that it would be suitable for transacting the state's business. In August, 1874, Manners, Fisher & Co. completed the remodeling at a cost of about \$8,000, and in December of the same year the new furnishings were in place and ready for the official inauguration ceremony of Governor John P. Cochran, on January 19, 1875.

A number of improvements were made to the State House beginning in 1895. By an act of legislature of that year, a committee was appointed to superintend the construction of an addition to the State Library, by extending the east wing of the building forty feet; the cost not to exceed \$10,000. This extension was finished by the following session of the legislature, and in 1897 a committee was appointed "to make necessary changes, improvements, and alterations in the interior arrangement of the State House and repairs to the same." Upon the completion of this work, the legislature passed, on June 1, 1898, an act "assigning the rooms in the State House to certain public officers." In accordance with this act the second and third floors were reserved for the exclusive use of the legislature, the two rooms at the northwest corner for the Governor, the room on the north side adjoining the Governor's offices to the State

Treasurer, the three rooms and fireproof vault at the southwest corner to the Secretary of State, the room on the south side adjoining the Secretary of State's offices to the Auditor of Accounts, the next room on the south side adjoining the Auditor of Accounts being assigned to the Judiciary of

the state, the room on the south side adjoining the Judiciary Chamber and the east reserved for the State Librarian, and the east wing, as extended, for the State Library.

This arrangement continued until 1910, when, pursuant to an act of the legislature, the Library, or south wing, was completed,

Reveries of a Regent

MRS. CHARLES S. JACKSON

Shokie Valley Chapter, Illinois

I love to be a Regent, and with the Regents stand,
A badge upon my shoulder, a gavel in my hand,
And cultivate a Chapter, and try to make it grow
And lead it, gently, often where it does not
want to go.

But a Regent's path is stony, with dire pitfalls
beset,
Dues fail, committees argue, our hostesses "regret";
Disaster sad meets best-laid plans, harsh criticism
— yet
Reward awaits the faithful. Two years pass
quickly, and
The worthy ones are gathered to ex-Regents' shin-
ing band.

But don't be *too* efficient,
Just mind what you're about,
For the "S. C.s", "S. O.s", "S. R.s" 'll get you
If you don't "watch out."

It's *grand* to be a Regent,
Of all joys, the best, by far,
Is to work for God and country,
In our splendid D. A. R.

"L'Envoi"

To this, our ageless edifice, each Regent adds a
stone —
Some small, some larger, some as giant boulders
shown —
Cemented by our common aim, and loyal faith
alone,
And who shall say, if small or large, the greater
value owns,
For the little ones are needed to hold fast the
larger stones.

Daughters of the American
Revolution Magazine
December, 1934.

June 6, 1975

TAXPAYERS, YOU ARE BEING DECEIVED!

The Old State House is gone!

It can never be replaced!

Your large sum of money originally allotted is being simply and irretrievably wasted and lost. The project was to be a restoration of the two centuries old State House -- the second oldest in the country. It was truly among the proudest historical heritages not only of Delaware, but of the entire country. Now, for the Bicentennial year, Delaware has demolished its prime exhibit and impoverished the nation!

Look at the before-and-after pictures on the reverse side. They tell the whole story. They are proof-positive that new brick is being used to reconstruct the old State House.

The project is a reconstruction, not a restoration.

The Old State House is forever lost to Delaware and to the country.

Its antiquity has been destroyed!

Even the cupola has been thrown away.

Original bricks have been carted away. Now, the Secretary of State is advertising for 1,400 window lights of "antique glass", 8"x10" size. Antiquity has become something you can manufacture, any day, any place?

WHO DID IT? A Secretary of State, a retired Air Force major, a historic registrar, and two research assistants, all approved by the Governor? None of the above have ever done a restoration in their lives!

We're paying through the nose for deliberate destruction of the State's irreplaceable historical property.

Our taxes have paid the salaries of people who have killed the State's major historical possession.

GEORGE FLETCHER BENNETT

Native of Delaware, a registered architect, resident of Kent County. Architect for restoration in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, for private, state and federal government agencies.



THE DELAWARE STATE HOUSE

The State House of Delaware, at Dover, was built on the site of the Kent County Court House erected in 1722. By 1787 the facilities of the old Court House were no longer adequate for the needs of both the county court and the legislature. In December of that year the Levy Court of Kent County authorized Charles Ridgely, Eleazer McComb, and Nehemiah Tilton, the commissioners appointed to erect the new building, "to pull down the old Court House and use the hard bricks for the foundation of the new building as there was not sufficient money for a stone foundation." Due to financial difficulties, which were solved by holding a State Lottery, the construction work was delayed and it was not until about April of 1792 that the building was opened at a cost of £2107:7:5. Three years later the General Assembly authorized the completion of the battlements, covering the roof with copper, erection of stone steps, paving in front of the building, the erection of seats in both houses of the Legislature, and paying a share of painting the building, all of which was accomplished at a cost of £404:4:4½.

Not until 1836 were other additions made to the State House. In that year a two-story and basement addition, forty by fifty feet was erected at a cost of nearly three thousand dollars. These improvements provided an executive chamber, an office for the Secretary of State, and a library on the lower floor; committee rooms and an enlarged House Chamber on the second floor.

As the years passed the Kent County Court House continued to be shared as a meeting place with the Legislature. The development of a more complex system of government required more office space for the growing departments. Following a conference with the Levy Court, relative to purchasing the State House from them, the Legislature in April of 1873 purchased the building for fifteen thousand dollars and appropriated additional funds for remodeling and equipping it. The firm of Manners, Fisher and Company completed the remodeling at a cost of about eight thousand dollars in August of 1874 and in December of that year all was in readiness for the inaugural ceremony of Governor John P. Cochran, on January 19, 1875. The office arrangement at that time provided for the Governor's office on the north side of the main building, the Secretary of State's office on the south side, and the Library in the rear, while the offices of the State Treasurer and the Auditor were on the right and left of the main entrance.

An addition of forty feet was added during the years 1895-1897 to the east wing previously built in 1836. This new extension provided larger quarters for the Governor, the Legislature, and other State offices.

Aside from necessary repairs to the building nothing was changed again until 1910 when the south or library wing was built, at a cost of sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars. This fireproof wing greatly increased office space for the State departments and provided ~~rooms~~ for the preservation for the records. At the same time the original portion of the State

House was restored as it had been prior to 1874, when many of its fine architectural features were erased and a mansard roof was added. It is interesting that the money for the restoration came from the Federal Government as the interest on the money advanced by Delaware during the War of 1812.

The next change to the State House was in 1925-1926 when the three story fireproof annex was built connecting with the east side of the old building. In 1933 the chambers and ante-rooms of the Legislature were changed to offices when the Legislative Hall was opened. At the same time the offices of the Governor and the Secretary of State were moved to the new building. Similar re-arrangement of offices was made in the spring of 1939 when the Secretary of State's office, the Corporation and Franchise Tax Departments and the State Archives were moved from the State House to the new Hall of Records.