

STATE HOUSE

The first state house, called Stadt House in deference to Dutch King William, was erected in 1697. Destroyed by fire in 1706, it was re-erected in similar form and using the original walls. W. Bladen was the contractor, receiving £1000 for the work. It was "a neat brick oblong building" according to contemporary description. After 65 years the structure was so run down it became "an emblem of public poverty." With their natural pride in Annapolis aroused, the inhabitants planned an ambitious edifice and in 1772 employed Joseph Clark to create the work. There have been many additions and changes through the years, but recently the old pre-Revolutionary Senate Chamber was most ably restored to its Colonial appearance. The first meeting of the Continental Congress was held in this room. Here, too, in 1783, George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief, and in January, 1784, the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain signed in Paris the previous September, was ratified by the new Congress of the United States.

Contemporary portraits of William Paca and Samuel Chase of Annapolis, whose homes are herein depicted, hang here together with those of many other great Colonial figures including LaFayette and George Washington.

On the lawn are statues of famous historical figures, and one of the cannon from the Ark and Dove, the two small ships which brought English colonists to Maryland in 1634.

In 1772?

Too early.