
REEL #81

GRAND JURY REPORTS

CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY

September Term, 1987 (no report filed)

February Term, 1988

September Term, 1988

February Term, 1989

September Term, 1989

February Term, 1990

September Term, 1990

STATE OF MARYLAND

HR-RM 26
(5-1-54)
Hall of Records Commission



Circuit Court for Wicomico County

Office of the Clerk - P. O. Box 198
Salisbury, Maryland 21803

MARK S BOWEN
Clerk

543-6551
Phone: 301-

MEMORANDUM

TO: CLERK/JUDGES/OFFICE PERSONNEL
FROM: BETTY, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK
RE: GRAND JURY REPORT FILE

Date: 6/21/90

AS OF THIS DATE THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, DAVIS R. RUARK, ESQUIRE, HAS NOT FILED THE GRAND JURY REPORT FOR THE SEPTEMBER TERM, 1987 WITH THIS OFFICE.

MR. RUARK HAS BEEN REMINDED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE REPORT HAS NOT BEEN FILED AND APPARENTLY AS OF MARCH 2nd, 1990 WAS UNABLE TO FIND IT IN HIS OFFICE AND WAS NOT SURE IF THE FOREMAN HAD BEEN IN TO SIGN THE REPORT.

COPY

Report Of The Grand Jury

FEBRUARY TERM, 1988

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

TO

THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Wicomico County, and of the aforesaid Term of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, pray leave to submit the following Report:

SA Form 130

The February, 1988, Term of the Grand Jury for Wicomico County was convened by and received its charge from the Honorable Alfred T. Truitt, Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court on Monday, February 8, 1988. Judge Truitt appointed Nancy Chapman to serve as Forelady of the Grand Jury. Subsequently, Marilyn Passon was designated as Secretary of the Grand Jury.

During its term, the Grand Jury met on several occasions to hear testimony and further conducted inspections of the Wicomico County Court House and the Wicomico County Detention Center.

I. THE WICOMICO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

A. OBSERVATIONS.

The Grand Jury found the Court House to be in deplorable condition. Each and every office therein is severely overcrowded. Working conditions are not good.

1. Central Alarm (Emergency Communications) operates in a very professional manner. It also performs a very sensitive function. As with prior Grand Jury sessions, concern was expressed about the disruption in service during any renovation.

Central Alarm should be moved out of the Court House.

2. The Sheriff's Department is severely overcrowded and fragmented. The Criminal Investigation Unit is located on the third floor in the bell tower. As such, it is inaccessible to everyone, including employees. The Sheriff's Department should be moved to a new facility as quickly as possible.

3. The Civil Defense Office does not come close to providing appropriate accommodations for its function. The county may well be in a crisis if a crisis situation ever arose.

4. The Register of Wills office has adequate space at the current time. Some concern was expressed about the storage of documents.

5. The Clerk of the Circuit Court desperately needs more space. Any renovation of the Court House should provide for suitable storage facilities.

6. The State's Attorney's Office did, during the course of the term, expand into the old Law Library space. Space now appears adequate for its function.

7. The Judges' Chambers are not commensurate with their positions. Heat and cooling equipment are not working properly.

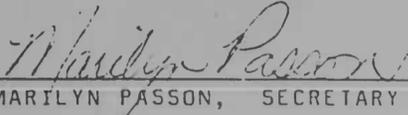
B. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The Grand Jury encourages the County Council to proceed with plans for court house renovation and expansion.

II. WICOMICO COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

On August 19, 1988, the Grand Jury visited the new Wicomico County Detention Center on Naylor Mill Road. All members were impressed with the facility and congratulate the County on the planning and implementation. The new Detention Center appears to be well-suited for its purpose. The Grand Jury has no recommendation to make concerning the facility.


NANCY CHAPMAN, FORELADY


MARILYN PASSON, SECRETARY

Report Of The Grand Jury

SEPTEMBER _____ TERM, 19 88

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

TO

THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Wicomico County, and of the aforesaid Term of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, pray leave to submit the following Report:

SA Form 130

GRAND JURY
SEPTEMBER TERM, 1988

The September, 1988, Term of the Grand Jury in and for Wicomico County was convened by and received its charge on Tuesday, September 13, 1988. Philip E. Boltz was appointed to serve as Foreman of the Grand Jury. Subsequently, Pamela M. Lewis was appointed Assistant Foreman, and Deanna Sartin was designated as Secretary.

During its term, the Grand Jury met on several occasions to hear testimony with respect to potential criminal cases and further conducted inspections of the Wicomico County Court House.

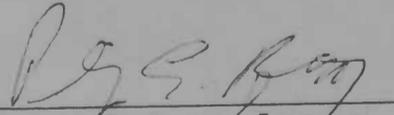
WICOMICO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

On September 13, 1988, the Grand Jury thoroughly inspected the Wicomico County Court House. The State's Attorney, Davis R. Ruark, explained to us some of the observations of previous Grand Juries. We concur with the previous reports that the conditions in the Court House are deplorable. The Circuit Court judges do not have adequate facilities and desperately need another courtroom to handle jury trials. Further, the judge's offices are not appropriate for their positions in the legal system.

All other offices in the Court House are overcrowded, particularly the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The Clerk needs expanded space for his day-to-day functions and also for storage.

The State's Attorney's space is adequate for the short-term. However, each attorney needs his own separate, private office to meet with victims and witnesses. Further, the layout of the office is not conducive to smooth functioning of office operations.

This Grand Jury strongly recommends the building of a new courts facility
and immediate renovation of the old Court House.


Philip E. Boltz, Foreman

Report Of The Grand Jury

FEBRUARY _____ TERM, 1989

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

TO

THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Wicomico County, and of the aforesaid Term of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, pray leave to submit the following Report:

GRAND JURY REPORT
FEBRUARY TERM, 1989

The February Term, 1989, Term of the Grand Jury in and for Wicomico County was convened by and received its charge from the Honorable D. William Simpson, Judge of the Circuit Court, on Tuesday, February 14, 1989. Judge Simpson appointed John C. Turner to serve as Foreman of the Grand Jury, subsequently, Sylvia Duvall was appointed Assistant Foreman and Maria R. Holloway was designated as Secretary of the Grand Jury.

During its term, the Grand Jury met on several occasions to hear testimony and further conducted inspections of the Wicomico County Court House, the Wicomico County Detention Center, and the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit.

I. The Wicomico County Court House

A. OBSERVATIONS

As noted in several earlier reports, the Court House is severely overcrowded, the working conditions are poor, and while security has been improved, the potential still exists for possible escapes and/or violence by criminal defendants and others.

The Grand Jurors were impressed with the operations of Central Alarm. The Grand Jurors were notified of the intention to move Central Alarm from the Court House once a new public safety building is opened. The Grand Jurors believed this should be done in all possible haste in order to give more space to this operation.

The Sheriff's Department is severely overcrowded and fragmented. There is no room for coherent operations.

The Civil Defense office is a disgrace. The County would be in a crisis if a crisis ever arose.

The only redeeming fact is that Wicomico County is making progress in its plan for a new public safety building.

The Register of Wills office has adequate space at the present time; however, more space for storage will have to be provided at a future time.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court desperately needs more space. This Grand Jury urgently recommends that a new courts building be constructed and that renovation of the old Court House commence at once.

The State's Attorney's office needs more useable space. The offices of the attorneys are split, with some attorneys not having private office space. The Grand Jurors strongly urge that new space be provided for the State's Attorney. His function is the most vital to the administration of criminal justice in Wicomico County.

The Judges' Chambers are not commensurate with their positions. The heating and cooling systems still do not work adequately. It is apparent that another court room is needed to accommodate jury trials.

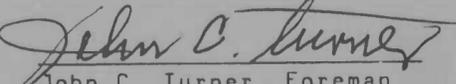
II. Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit

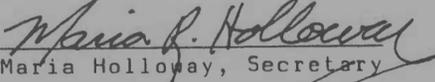
As mandated by statute, the Grand Jurors inspected Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit on February 14, 1989. The Grand Jurors were impressed with the facility and grounds. The Director thoroughly explained the many programs available to the inmates there. The Director also addressed concerns about the security of the unit.

The Grand Jury recommends that new doors be purchased for several of the buildings. Some are warped and no longer fit the frames.

III. Wicomico County Detention Center

The Grand Jury also inspected the Wicomico County Detention Center on Naylor Mill Road. All Grand Jurors were impressed with the facility. The Detention Center is well-suited for its purpose. The Grand Jury has no recommendations to make concerning this facility.


John C. Turner, Foreman


Maria Holloway, Secretary

Report Of The Grand Jury

SEPTEMBER TERM, 19 89

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

TO

THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Wicomico County, and of the aforesaid Term of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, pray leave to submit the following Report:

SA Form 130

GRAND JURY REPORT
SEPTEMBER TERM, 1989

The September, 1989, Term of the Grand Jury for Wicomico County was convened by and received its charge from the Honorable Alfred T. Truitt, Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court on Monday, September 11, 1989. Judge Truitt appointed Donald L. Sullivan to serve as Foreman of the Grand Jury. Subsequently, Clifton B. Thaw, III, was designated as Secretary of the Grand Jury.

During its term, the Grand Jury met on several occasions to hear testimony on potential criminal matters, returned several indictments and further conducted an inspection of the Wicomico County Court House.

THE WICOMICO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

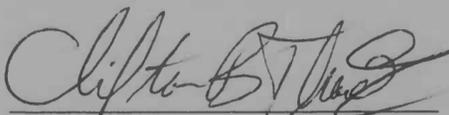
The Grand Jury found the Court House to be in poor condition. Virtually every office in the Court House is cramped for space. There is no second court room adequate for jury trials. With the removal of the Sheriff's Department, Central Alarm and Civil Defense to a new facility, it is the recommendation of this Grand Jury that a new Courts Building be constructed as quickly as possible and that renovation of the old Court House commence at once.

Obviously, the Judges of the Circuit Court need more and better offices and space. The other important offices, e.g. State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, etc., need space that will allow them to expand and will at least be functional, if not elaborate. The furniture in the State's Attorney's office is in deplorable condition, and is not conducive to his function as chief prosecutor and chief law enforcement officer in Wicomico County.

Edward E. Nock, III, who was a member of the Grand Jury, serves as an engineer on the new courts project. He explained some of the County's plans for the future.

The Grand Jury cannot stress enough the importance of proceeding immediately with construction of the new courts building and renovation of the old court house for office space.


Donald L. Sullivan, Foreman


Clifton B. Thaw, III, Secretary

Report Of The Grand Jury

FEBRUARY TERM, 1990

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

TO

THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Wicomico County, and of the aforesaid Term of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, pray leave to submit the following Report:

SA Form 130

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY, FEBRUARY TERM, 1990

The February, 1990 Term of the Grand Jury for Wicomico County was convened on February 13, 1990 and received its charge from the Honorable Richard D. Warren. Judge Warren appointed David A. Vorhis to serve as Foreman and Theodore T. Wycall as Assistant Foreman. Subsequently, Sherry W. Todd was designated as Secretary of the Grand Jury.

During its term, the Grand Jury met on several occasions to hear testimony on criminal matters, returned indictments and conducted an inspection of the Wicomico County Court House.

THE WICOMICO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

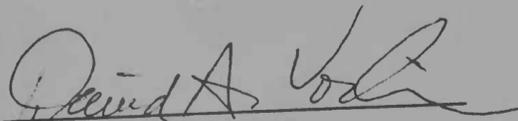
The Grand Jury found the Court House to be in fair condition. Several offices have already moved to the Naylor Mill Road complex. Central Alarm is currently in the process of moving. The plans for a new courts building were discussed. It is the hope of this Grand Jury that once the new courts building is completed and the old Court House is renovated, that there will be adequate space for the courts and court-related agencies until well into the next century.

THE WICOMICO COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

The new Wicomico County Detention Center on Naylor Mill Road was inspected. The Grand Jurors were impressed with the location, size and

the potential of the facility. There were a number of favorable comments made concerning the operation of the jail.

There were concerns raised, however, about the holding facility in the Court House. At the very least, the Grand Jury believed it should be thoroughly and professionally cleaned on a regular basis. It also needs painting. Finally, there was concern about the safety of the Deputy Sheriffs who control the holding cells when court is in session. The Sheriff's Department should make all efforts to protect those Deputies who man this facility.


DAVID A. VORHIS
Foreman


SHERRY TODD
Secretary

FILED

JUL 9 4 09 PM '92
CLERK. WICOMICO CO.

Report Of The Grand Jury

SEPTEMBER TERM, 1990

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WICOMICO COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND

TO
THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF SAID COURT

FILED

DEC 13 3 39 PM '91

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Wicomico County, and of the aforesaid Term of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, pray leave to submit the following Report:

THE REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY, SEPTEMBER, 1990 TERM

The September, 1990 Term of the Grand Jury for Wicomico County was convened on Monday, September 10, 1990 and received its charge from the Honorable Alfred T. Truitt, Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court. Judge Truitt appointed Donald E. Beach to serve as Foreman. Subsequently, Mary B. Dean was designated as Secretary of the Grand Jury.

During its term, the Grand Jury met on several occasions to hear testimony on criminal matters, returned several indictments, and conducted inspections of the Court House and also the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit.

THE WICOMICO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The Grand Jury found the Court House to be in poor condition. The decision to build a new courts complex and the construction thereof should alleviate many of the current problems. All remaining offices are cramped and should be expanded as quickly as possible after the new courts building is opened. Special attention should be devoted to those agencies that support the operations of the Circuit Court.

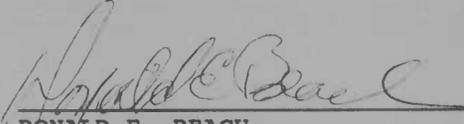
THE POPLAR HILL PRE-RELEASE UNIT

On December 14, 1990, the Grand Jury inspected the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit. The Director of the facility gave a thorough history of the unit and explained several of the purposes and functions of the

pre-release system. There are some serious concerns held by the Grand Jurors. Overcrowding is a primary problem. With a population of 180 and staffing for 120, some inmates find themselves with too much idle time. Exacerbating the overcrowding is the fact that any guard vacancies are frozen by the State of Maryland. The Grand Jurors request that the State of Maryland lift the freeze and provide adequate staffing for the facility.

Many of the inmates are serving sentences for narcotics or narcotics-related offenses. Poplar Hill needs addictions counsellors available at all times. The Grand Jurors request that the State provide these services on a full-time basis at Poplar Hill.

With these exceptions, the Grand Jurors find that Poplar Hill is a well run institution that the State should be proud of.


DONALD E. BEACH
Foreman

MARY B. DEAN
Secretary

REEL #81

GRAND JURY REPORTS

CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY

September Term, 1987 (no report filed)
February Term, 1988
September Term, 1988
February Term, 1989
September Term, 1989
February Term, 1990
September Term, 1990

COMPLETE

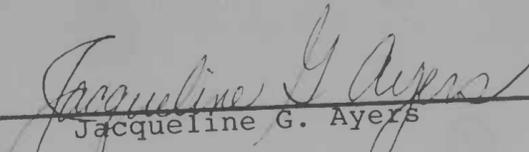
STATE OF MARYLAND

HR-RM 26
(5-1-54)
Hall of Records Commission

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the microphotographs appearing on this reel are accurate and complete reproductions of the file District Court Lien Records 3 & 4 and Sept Term, 1987 thru Sept. Term,
(Name of file) 1990 Grand Jury Reports.
of WICOMICO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.
(Agency)

This microfilming is being performed with the assistance of the Hall of Records Commission, Records Management Division. (Chapter 436, Acts of 1953).



Jacqueline G. Ayers
Date 7/21/92

MARK S. BOWEN, CLERK
WICOMICO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

STATE OF MARYLAND

HR-RM 36
(4-1-54)
Hall of Records Commission

