

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION NEWS

Volume 2, 1988



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GOOD NEWS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE KAPLAN

Administrative Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan reports great progress on the many faceted Courthouse renovation program.

1. Fini!

- * Painting and carpeting and adding certain amenities to the Grand Jury room
- * Repainting and decorative painting of the hallways of Courthouse East
- * Designating and painting and carpeting an office for the Monumental Bar Association
- * Redoing the lockup on the 5th floor of Courthouse East and providing space for an expanded Sheriff's lockup in the Mitchell Courthouse
- * Redoing the area of the Clerk's Office and the Juvenile hearing room to take the place of the hearing room and office that were eliminated by the Sheriff's expanded lockup
- * Redoing the Mitchell Courthouse parking area
- * The elimination of asbestos from both Mitchell Courthouse and Courthouse East
- * Providing new offices for Community Services
- * Establishing a locker room on the 5th floor of Courthouse East for the security guards
- * Recarpeting all of the chambers in the Mitchell Courthouse and replacing all carpeting in the courtroom areas of Courthouse East

2. In Progress!

- ** Juvenile Detention/Waiting Room Areas of the Mitchell Courthouse: Construction of these areas is progressing.

Thanks to the Junior League of Baltimore, Inc. a children's playroom was dedicated in the renovated Juvenile Waiting Room on June 28, 1988.

- ** Lighting Project for the Mitchell Courthouse: This project is currently in the bid process. It is anticipated that work will take approximately 9 months to complete from date of contract award.

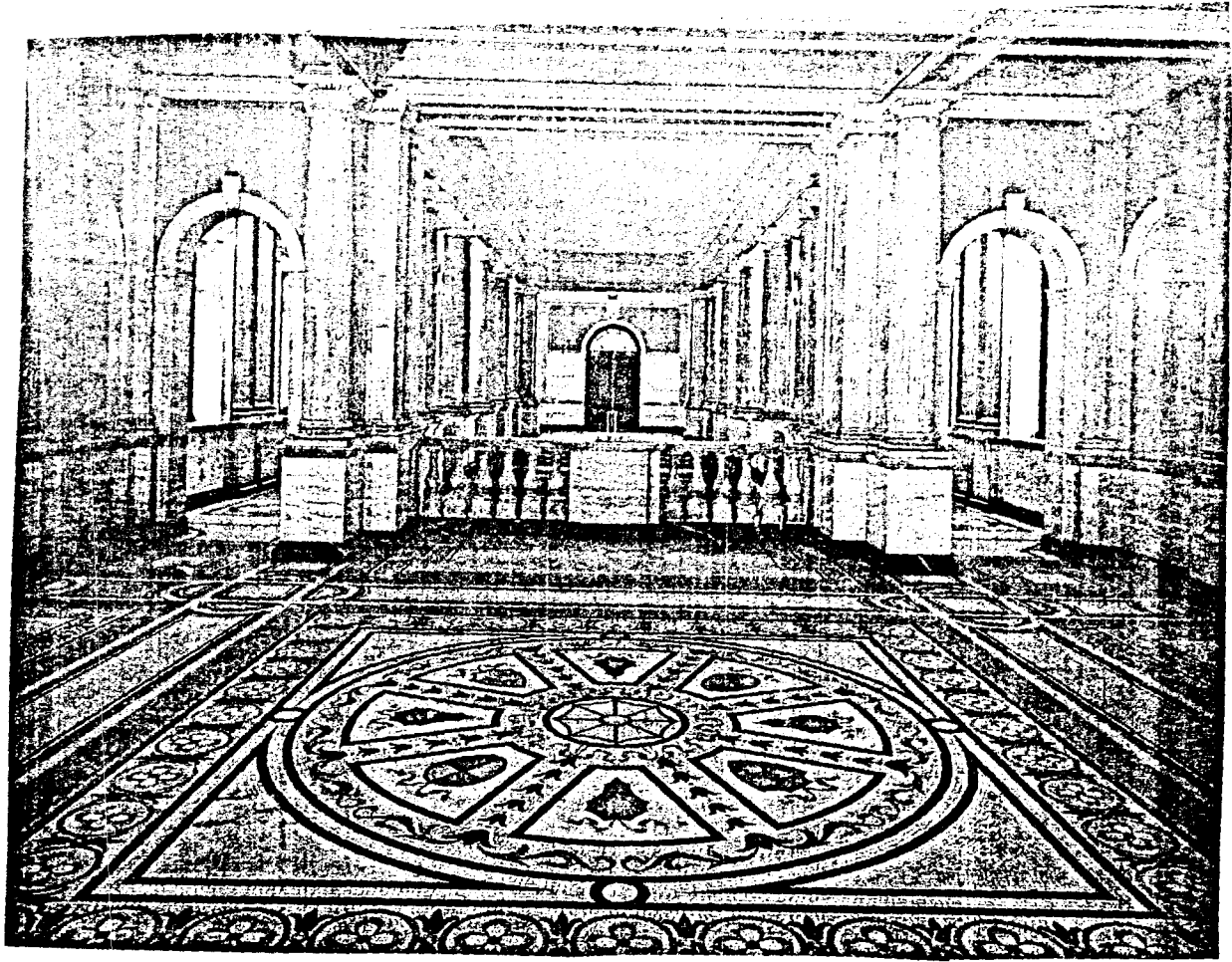
- ** Refurbishment of Elevators in Mitchell Courthouse:
Work is still being done on the passenger elevators and renovations will start shortly on the freight elevator. Courthouse employees, attorneys, jurors and the public in general have complimented the beautiful car interiors as well as elevator efficiency.
- ** Refurbishment of Elevators in Courthouse East:
Otis Elevator received the contract for this job and has submitted schematic drawings to the Bureau of Construction Management, which is currently reviewing same. Completion of work should be in approximately 12 months.
- ** Second Floor Courtrooms and Offices, Courthouse East: Final drawings are in the review stage, and the job should soon be submitted for bid. The Bench is eagerly awaiting completion of this project.
- ** Courthouse East Skylights: Preliminary plans for the refurbishment (opening) of the skylights in Courthouse East have been submitted to Judge Kaplan. Hopefully this project will be started sometime in early FY 1989.
- ** Exterior Cleaning and Birdproofing of Mitchell Courthouse is underway.
- ** The Circuit Court recently received a very large and beautiful silk flower arrangement in an oriental bowl as a token of appreciation from Duell McCall Productions, Inc. This film company filmed segments in the Mitchell Courthouse for a television pilot entitled "Men," which is scheduled to be aired sometime in June, 1988. The arrangement is on display in the second floor Calvert Street Lobby of the Mitchell Courthouse and certainly adds to the beauty of that lobby.
- ** Arrangements have been made between the Circuit Court and Jail Industries of the Baltimore City Jail to have all corridor benches in the Mitchell Courthouse refurbished. Because of the volume of work and the extensive repairs which are required on the benches, this project will not be completed for at least one year. The results will be worth the wait.

** Feasibility Study - Mitchell Courthouse: The Architectural and Engineering Awards Commission recently approved Richter, Cornbrooks and Gribble to begin competitive negotiations to perform a Feasibility Study for restorations and renovations to the Mitchell Courthouse. The contract negotiations, which are currently being held, should be finalized very shortly, and the project submitted for approval to the Board of Estimates. The study may be completed by mid-October, 1988. Harry Lord, chair of the Foundation's Finance Committee, has stated that he will rely on this study in planning major Foundation fund raising.

COORDINATION PLAN ADOPTED

The Bar Association of Baltimore City, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the City of Baltimore, and the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. have agreed to a coordination plan by which each accepts an important role in the renovation program. The Bar Association has renewed its commitment to the renovation of Courtroom 400 and will solicit support from lawyers. The Foundation will continue its interest in the total renovation, and in the short term consider focusing on particularly interesting and historic courtrooms in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Building. The Foundation will solicit non-lawyers. The Monumental City Bar Association will be invited to work with the Foundation on a project of interest to it. The City of Baltimore has agreed to cooperate fully to the extent its budget allows; but suggests that because of the heavy state government involvement in Courthouse function that the State of Maryland should be invited to participate as well. This coordination agreement resolves various questions of organization which have been under discussion in recent years.

A creative financing approach is also being considered. The magnificent Detroit Courthouse was recently, and very beautifully, restored to its former glory by a private-public sector partnership. This model will be studied.



Renovated Detroit Courthouse

[Photos/Historical Preservation--
May/June 1988]

COURT ROOM SPRUCING

Judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City continue their undertaking to place appropriate art in the usually drab jury rooms where so many of our citizens serve long hours and days in jury duty. Also, last year retired Judge Robert B. Watts contributed an important piece of art. This year retiring Judge Marshall A. Levin offered to continue that tradition.

Thanks to Mrs. Anne S. Byrnes (widow of former Judge Joseph R. Byrnes) and Dr. Richard W. Ferguson for their generous contribution of time and talent in refinishing a fine informal table which has been donated by Judge John Carroll Byrnes and placed in the Jury Assembly Room for the purpose of displaying news and information regarding Courthouse renovation and the work of this Foundation.

Retired Judge Milton B. Allen's Law Clerks made a generous contribution to the Courthouse Foundation. We thank them.

The former main Federal Courtroom in Courthouse East (now the courtroom of Judge David Ross of the Circuit Court) has been refurbished and is in excellent condition again. As with so many beautification projects in the Courthouse complex, much credit to Mary Widomski, Deputy Administrator of the Circuit Court, who once again shared her substantial interior design and decorating talent in that refurbishment.

FOUNDATION ACTIVITY

Congratulations to Andrew Jay Graham, Esquire of Kramon and Graham, the new President of the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc. for the next two years. Elected President-elect was Read McCaffrey, Esquire of Whiteford, Taylor and Preston. Elected Vice-Presidents were: Judge Solomon Baylor and Lawrence T. Mullen, A.I.A. Marc P. Blum was re-elected Treasurer and Judge John Carroll Byrnes Secretary of the Foundation. Board members elected include:

Hon. M.P. Clarke	Hon. S. Baylor	M.P. Blum, Esq.
R.S. Hillman, Esq.	N. Brennan	Hon. J. Byrnes
C.H. Dorsey, Esq.	S.K. Sachs, Esq.	K. Thompson, Esq.
F.X. Gallagher, Esq.	L.T. Mullen	A.J. Graham, Esq.
Hon. Stuart O. Simms	H.M. Rosen	P.F. Axelrad, Esq.
J.M. McWilliams, Esq.	W. Schamu	H.R. Lord, Esq.
Hon. K. O'Ferrall Friedman	W. Sondheim	J.K. Pokempner, Esq.
D. Goodman, CHAP	W.C. Stifler, Esq.	Hon. J.F. Schneider
R. McCaffrey, Esq.	M. Welch, Esq.	P. Sherman, Esq.
J. Archibald, Esq.	R. Thieblot, Esq.	Hon. G. Solter
S.G. Leech, Esq.	Hon. J.H.H. Kaplan	Hon. E.S. Derby

Honorary Governor Schaefer
Mayor Schmoke

ExOfficio: John Henry Lewis, Esquire

Our thanks to retiring Board members: Honorable Thomas D'Alesandro, M. Bernardine Myles and Honorable Thomas Ward. They have served with distinction from the beginning.

At the annual meeting on May 25, 1988, the Foundation approved amended bylaws presented by counsel Martin Welch which clarify some of the previous language and reenforced the dual commitment of the Foundation to work with the City and State in financing the restoration and beautification work; and also to solicit the involvement of interested citizens to support smaller projects of restoration and beautification.

MARRIAGE ROOM IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Clerk of the Circuit Court Sandra E. Banks has announced major progress in the beautification of the "Marriage Room." Mrs. Banks shares with the Foundation and the Judges of the Circuit Court the commitment to having that room reflect the dignity of its function. A new rug has been placed along with new artwork and other decorative items. Remaining to be done is some refinishing of woodwork and the replacement of the two rather tawdry chairs. Donations of such furnishings are always welcome, not only for the Marriage Room, but for many spaces in the Courthouses. Clerk of the Court Banks is working with Judge Byrnes on this project.

BABC

Many, many thanks to Sheila K. Sachs, Esquire of Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger and Hollander, who is retiring this year as President of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. She is succeeded by John Henry Lewin, Jr., Esquire of Venable, Baetjer and Howard. Sheila has been enormously supportive of our work. Sidney Leech, Esquire, a member of our Foundation Board, is president-elect of the Association. Sincere congratulations to Sheila, John Henry and Sidney.

Peter F. Axelrad, Esquire of Frank, Bernstein, Conaway and Goldman, has accepted designation as Chair of the fund raising effort of the Baltimore City Bar Association Courtroom 400 Renovation Committee. That committee is chaired by Joseph K. Pokempner, Esquire of Whiteford, Taylor and Preston. Three subcommittees have been formed: Solicitation, Publications and Memorials. The excellent Room 400 study prepared by the Engineering Society through the good efforts of Vice-President Sol Baylor and Larry Mullen will be used to present particular beautification goals. Len Cohen chairs the public information effort.

The Bar Committee is looking forward to successfully concluding its commitment to Room 400, which was inaugurated by the historic 1987 Bicentennial Ball in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse.

PORTRAIT OF JUDGE SHIRLEY B. JONES

Judge Shirley B. Jones made history in the state and federal judiciary. Her magnificent portrait (by Cooper) was recently presented by her former law clerks and the Women's Bar Association to the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. It is hoped that a reproduction of that portrait might be acquired for installation in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. The Women's Bar Association has agreed to cooperate in that venture; and Board member Judge Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman is coordinating.



DOCENT GOULD RETIRES

The Honorable Justinus Gould retired earlier this year as a docent of the Baltimore Museum of Legal History. After nearly four years of faithfully greeting and introducing the many visitors to the museum each Tuesday, Judge Gould retired as a volunteer docent. Moses J. Cohen, local legal historian and member of the Baltimore Bar, is the remaining volunteer docent.

The Museum of Baltimore Legal History is located in the restored old Orphans' Court on the second floor of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. This room is considered by many to be the most beautiful courtroom in Maryland, decorated with mahogany paneling, a parquet floor and a mural entitled "Surrender at Yorktown" occupying half of the courtroom's back wall. Many hundreds of legal artifacts and photographs are exhibited in free standing panels and several glass showcases, designed in the same classic decorum of the courtroom, so as to not detract from the mesmerizing aura of the room's tradition and history.

If you desire to volunteer your time as a docent several hours each week or desire to donate items to the museum, please call Judge James F. Schneider, 962-7801 or Philip Sherman, 727-5020.



Left to right: Justinus Gould, Philip Sherman, Moses J. Cohen

By Edward Gunts

For those who drive by it every day on the way to work, Preston Gardens may seem to be little more than an oversized median strip, a place to watch the tulips bloom in spring and nothing else.

But a diverse group — including a Circuit Court judge and representatives of the city planning and parks departments — recently came together with the belief that the stretch of parkland along St. Paul Street from Centre to Lexington streets has the potential to be far more than that:

□ Joseph H. H. Kaplan, administrative judge of the Baltimore Circuit Court, thinks it could be one of Baltimore's most attractive parks, "the green gateway to the city" for people driving toward the central business district from the north.

□ Chris T. Delaporte, executive director of the Maryland Stadium Authority and former director of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks, sees it as an ideal setting for weekend festivals, art exhibits and other special events during non-business hours.

□ Don Duncan, chief of the urban design section of Baltimore's planning department, thinks it could be used to help steer development north of the central business district yet away from the historic areas such as the Charles Street corridor.

Judge Kaplan, Mr. Delaporte and Mr. Duncan are among those involved in a new effort to rethink Preston Gardens, once known as the "Sunken Gardens," and make it more attractive and useful to city residents, office workers and visitors.

The effort began last fall, when the city's parks department, then headed by Mr. Delaporte, hired the landscape architecture firm Catherine Mahan & Associates to study the park and make recommendations for change.

The study was prompted by the neglect and deterioration of the 3-acre park, which is four blocks long and less than one block wide. It was created nearly 70 years ago to link the central business district with the Mount Vernon neighborhood to the north.

With most of the land bordering the Inner Harbor already taken for development, city planners are particularly looking to see how improvements to the park — and the possible rerouting and reconstruction of streets and sidewalks around it — could help stimulate additional high-rise development along its edges.

Planners say the Mahan study is timely because many of the blocks surrounding Preston Gardens recently have become sites for key city redevelopment projects that are about to begin:

□ At the southern end of the park is the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse, where Judge

Kaplan and others hope to see a restoration and modernization project that could cost \$35 million to \$50 million. The architectural firm Richter, Cornbrooks, Gribble was selected last month to outline the scope of that project and say how it might be timed and financed.

□ At the north end of the park is a 2-acre city parcel on which Summit Properties plans to build a \$15 million, 192-unit apartment complex called Waterloo Place starting this summer. Across St. Paul Street, the Peabody Institute is constructing a \$10 million addition containing teaching and practice rooms.

□ On the east side of the park, at St. Paul and Lexington streets, the state is renovating an office building for its worker's compensation division.

□ In the next block north, Hadley Properties of Seattle plans to construct the city's tallest building, a 46-story structure called Provident Tower.

□ In the 500 block, the Patt Organization recently converted the former Chesapeake Life Insurance Co. headquarters to an office complex called Mount Vernon Centre.

□ On the west side of Preston Gardens, above the 15-story St. Paul Plaza garage at St. Paul and Lexington streets, developer David Kornblatt plans to build a 13-story, 280,000-square-foot office tower.



THE SUN/GEORGE H. COOK

The 3-acre park, which is four blocks long and less than a block wide, was created nearly 70 years ago to link downtown and Mount Vernon.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED!

If you are interested in volunteering to help preserve and restore our historic Courthouses, please write:

The Baltimore Courthouse & Law Museum Foundation, Inc.
c/o Judge John Carroll Byrnes
111 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



Second Annual Report
John Carroll Byrnes
Secretary - 1988

*At Detroit's newly restored Wayne County
Courthouse, the verdict is: Spectacular!*