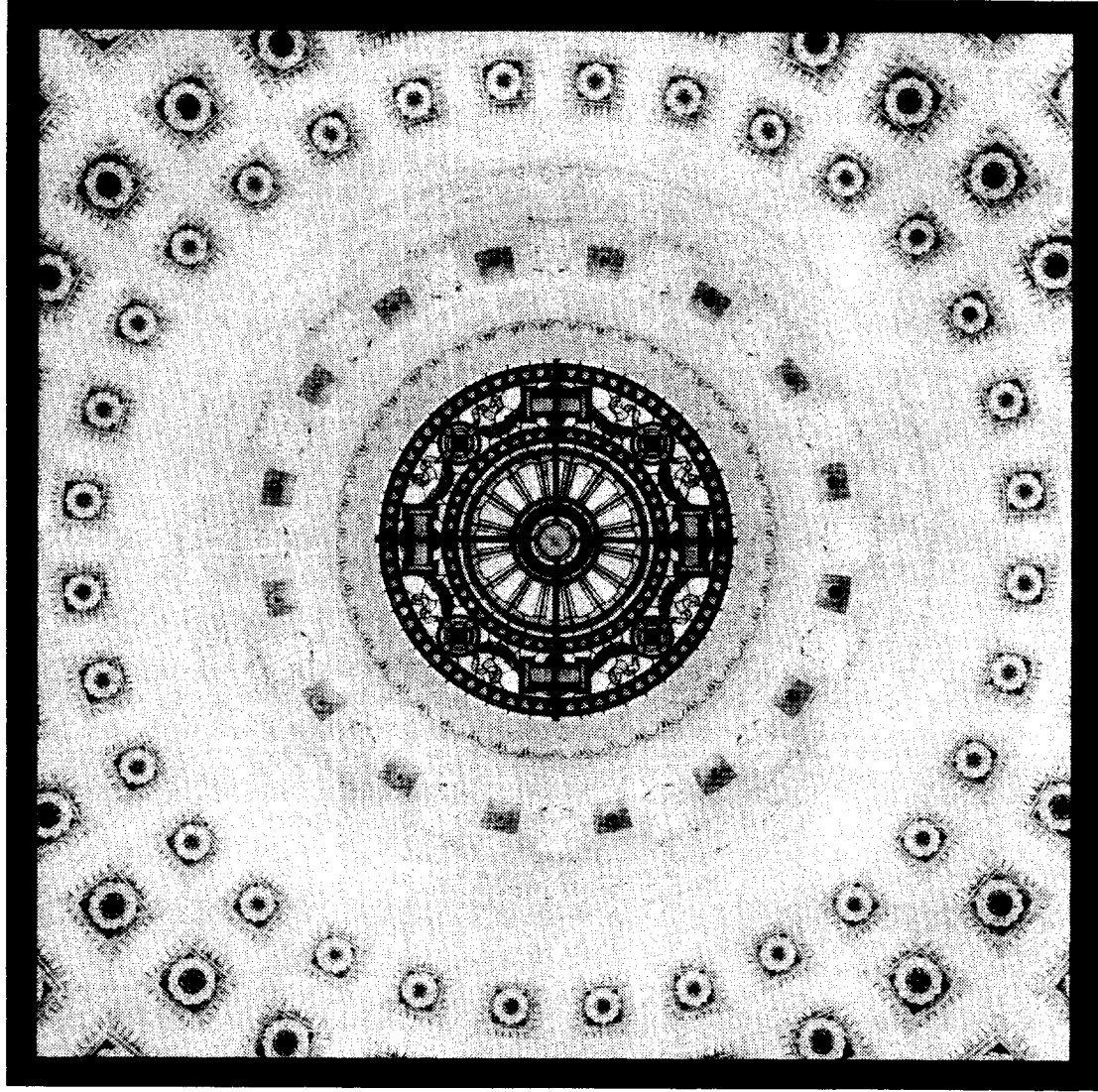


Courthouse Renovation News

1989 Edition

Volume 3



Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, Inc. Masterplan

Mary Widomski - Dedicated Service Continues

Bar Association Fundraising in Full Swing

Jury and Courtroom Beutification Progress

Stories
of
Interest

MASTERPLAN COMPLETED

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION CONTINUES

The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse is in a deplorable condition. The roof is damaged, air conditioning leaks have stained the stone and window frames have rotted. Courtrooms and jury rooms have lost their splendor and once dignified legal decor. The Courthouse, considered to be the "greatest Courthouse of them all," is presently in an inefficient, unsafe and decaying state.

Fortunately, the work of dedicated people, under the direction of Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan, is restoring the "temple of justice" and preserving its legal history. This project of renovation and restoration has been in progress since 1985. This spring the masterplan for the Courthouse was presented by the architectural firm of Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, Inc.

The plan is to restore the Courthouse, as much as possible, to its original 1900 design. However, new safety features and energy-efficient devices must be installed in order to meet modern day demands. Structurally, the Courthouse will be returning to the original design with two major exceptions: the split-level Bar Library and the central elevator building addition. One radical architectural proposal is the removal of the lightwell infill structures. The new skylit spaces allow for natural sunlight to penetrate the Courthouse while also providing a large assembly space.

The study presented by the firm consists of nearly one hundred pages of text, photographs, graphs and diagrams explicitly explaining each and every step to be taken. The masterplan reminds us that "to preserve, restore or re-create all that is visible to the general public will greatly enhance public appreciation of the Courthouse and elicit a greater sense of respect for its mission--justice."



Longitudinal building section with skylit spaces visible.

The Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, Inc. Masterplan suggests the following for each floor of the Courthouse:

Basement

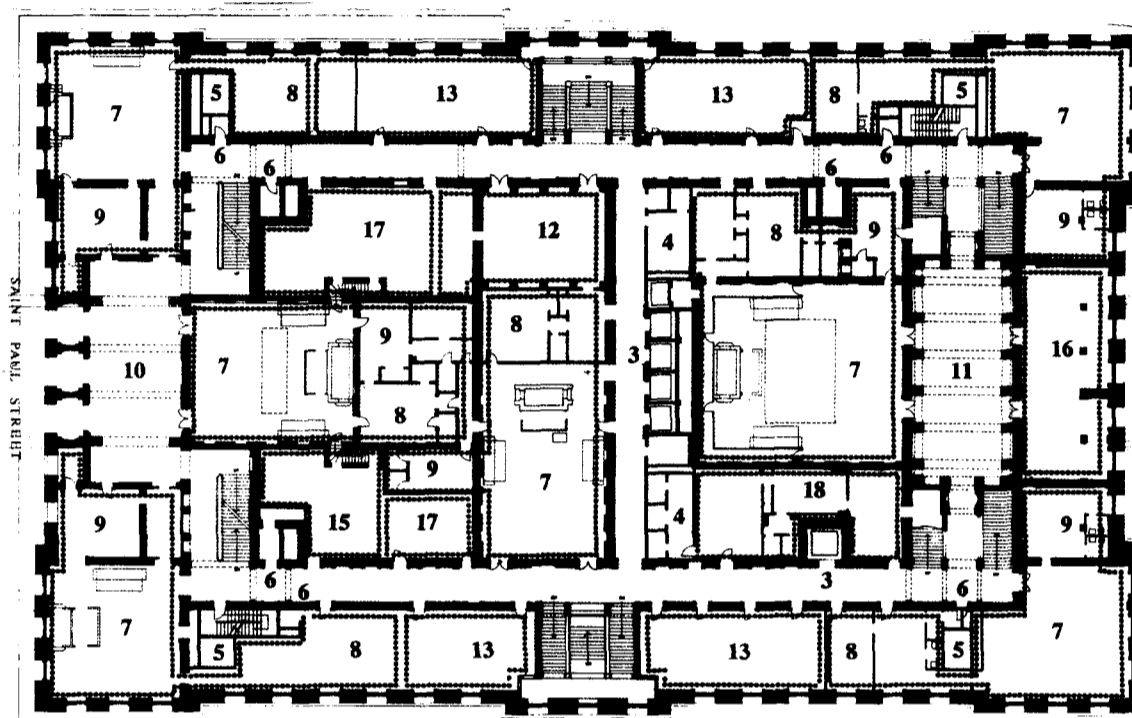
- changing the equipment room to a Sheriff's Area.
- new improved tunnels to segregate prisoners.

1st Floor

- the installation of two fire stairs and three wheelchair lifts, accessing the Juvenile Clerks and Court Reporters.

2nd Floor

- restoration of the two-story Criminal Courts Lobby(11) and Law Museum(12).
- new acoustical ceilings.
- installation of a public waiting area to reduce the noise and allow for informal meetings between lawyer and client(16).
- spaces added for Lawyers' Services Areas(13).



PROPOSED

Masterplan proposal for 2nd Floor.

3rd Floor

- offices for Building Administration, Medical Services and Pre-Trial Release.
- mezzanine floor structure for the Assignment Division.

4th Floor

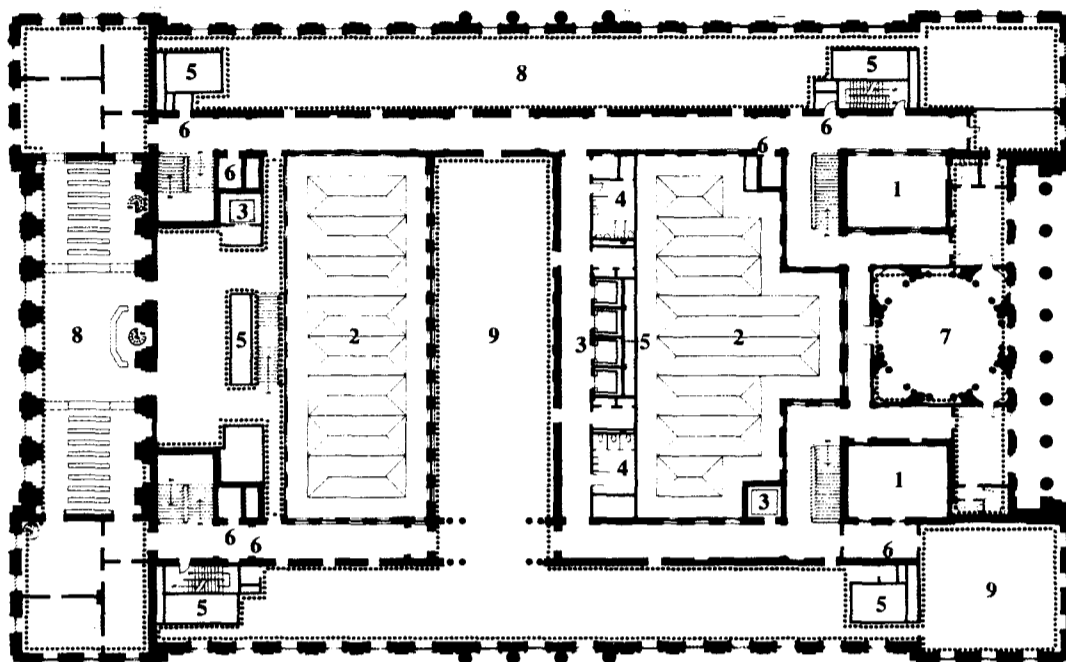
- restoration of Room 400, the ceremonial courtroom.
- added spaces for the Jury Commissioner, Grand Jury and a new Conference Center for judicial meetings.

5th Floor

- removal of the lightwell infill structures.
- restoration of rooms and hallways.

6th Floor

- expansion of the Bar Library(8).
- provisions for fire protection(5), air conditioning and acoustical conditions.



Proposed 6th Floor.

**The roof will return to the original skylit interior space with the necessary modern adjustments made.

The Masterplan suggest four phases. One year is allotted for each phase, completing the restoration of the Mitchell Courthouse in late 1993. In order for each phase to be completed as scheduled, funding is absolutely imperative. Currently, one can see the visible restoration process at work. With necessary funding and cooperation Phase IV will result in the splendor of one of the nation's most beautiful works of architecture, our "temple of justice," the renovated and restored Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

MARY WIDOMSKI

20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Mary B. Widomski has been contributing to Baltimore's legal society for over 20 years. In 1966 Mrs. Widomski was the Senior Secretary for the State's Attorney's Office. She became Judge Sklar's secretary, was assigned to the Administrative Office of the Circuit Court and in 1982 held the position of Fiscal Administrator for the Circuit Courts. Since 1985 Widomski has served as Deputy Administrator for the Circuit Courts for Baltimore City.



As Deputy Administrator, Mrs. Widomski prepares the Courts operating budget and all grant applications and budgets. She also attends to miscellaneous day-to-day administrative functions. Mrs. Widomski is also involved in the restoration of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. In fact, Mrs. Widomski has been a mainstay in the restoration and renovation progress.

In the past she has worked with Judge Kaplan in restoring the second floor Calvert Street Lobby skylight, refurbishing Room 434 for use as a lawyers's conference area and the renovation of the Juvenile Waiting Room and Juvenile Boys' Detention Area. Currently Mrs. Widomski is working on such projects as the renovations to the second floor and the skylights of Courthouse East.

Many thanks are in order for Mary Widomski who, in addition to being a wife and mother, continually serves the City of Baltimore. Her service to the restoration of the Mitchell Courthouse has been outstanding. Mrs. Widomski's contributions to preserving legal history and beautification of Courthouse spaces is notable and appreciated by all.

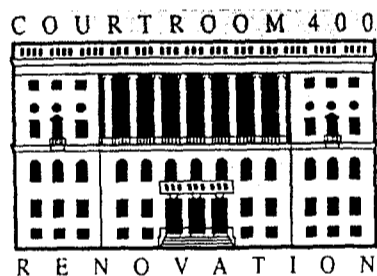


BAR ASSOCIATION LENDS A HELPING HAND

Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan has challenged lawyers from the city's leading law firms to raise \$500,000 to complete the restoration of Courtroom 400. BABC kicked off the campaign by inviting the managing partners of the largest firms to tour the renovated areas of the 89 year old building. The tour was hosted by Judges Joseph H.H. Kaplan, John Carroll Byrnes and James F. Schneider, Bench Historian. A reception in Room 400 followed.

Joseph K. Pokempner, Chairman of the Courthouse Renovation Committee of the Bar Association, Fundraising Chairman Peter F. Axelrad and Publicity Chairman, Leonard E. Cohen asked members of the Bar to show their support and respect for the Courthouse project. Pokempner sent a brochure to each lawyer in the city asking for donations. The cover of the brochure stated "Courtroom 400 is a ceremonial courtroom- a historic treasure. Our Judges are sworn in there, our citizens assemble there for jury duty, it's where we practice our profession-its condition is a civic disgrace."

Pokempner stressed the need for the members of the Baltimore Bar Association to support the Courthouse project. He added, "the campaign can succeed only with the support of every member of the Bar." A plaque is to be placed outside the Courtroom commemorating the Bar's dedication and aid to the restoration project.



MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD

Memorial services were held before the Circuit Court for Baltimore for the members of the Bar Association who died in 1988. The services were organized by Chairman of the Memorial Committee, James A. Biddison, Jr. During the ceremonies families, friends and colleagues joined in the memorial minutes. A reception was held in the Calvert Street Lobby. The ceremonies took place in Courtroom 400. Members of the Baltimore Bar who died in 1988 are:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| C. Atwater | G. Gump | J.D. Reeder |
| B. Berman | J.F. Ireton | J. Robinson |
| G. Bracken | S. Janney, Jr. | M. Robinson |
| R. Caplan | S. Kaplan | H.P. Rome |
| P. Clarkson | E. Larsen | C.J. Serio |
| J. Cullen | S. Liss | F. Singley, Jr. |
| H. Curlander | W. Marbury | E.I. Ulman |
| C. Dorn | H. Mylander | S.R. Warnken |
| F. Green, Jr. | M. Polt | P. Weiner |
| M. Greenfield | M.S. Radcliffe | W. Zinman |

SPECIAL CEREMONIES

The Historical Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City held special ceremonies honoring Justinus Gould and the presentation of a historical document by eleven contributors. Gould was honored for faithfully serving as Museum Docent for four years. The historical document was presented by:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| B. Tayman | H. Dubois | M. Glushakow |
| E. McGarritty | F. Giorno | S. Kaufman |
| L. Battaglia | R. Verderaime | M. Lynn |
| P. Silberman | F. Marasco | |

The ceremonies were held at the Museum of Baltimore Legal History. Presiding were Philip Sherman, Esq., Chairman and Judge James F. Schneider.

JURY AND COURTROOM ART PROJECTS

Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell and family have donated the A.S. Abell/Sun Papers commissioned portrait of Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. The portrait has been temporarily placed in Judge Davis' Courtroom in the Mitchell Courthouse.

Mr. David Rosenberg, a Baltimore artist, donated seven of his original oil paintings to the Courthouse Foundation. His work will brighten several jury rooms.

In April of 1988, Linda Johnson was commissioned by the law firm of Smith, Somerville and Case to travel through the state of Maryland and photograph the exterior and interior of every County Courthouse, the Courts of Appeals Building, the Federal Courthouse and the Baltimore City Courthouse. Smith, Somerville and Case purchased a set of exterior photographs to be donated to the Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation. Ms. Johnson's excellent photos are to be placed in the jury assembly room.

A tradition initiated by retired Judge Watts is beautifying various jury rooms in the Mitchell Courthouse. Retired Judges Silver, Allen, Levin and Solter and Mrs. Nancy O'Donnell, wife of the late Judge O'Donnell have joined to continue the jury room decoration improvement program by donating pieces of artwork to be placed in jury rooms. The program brings appropriate art to previously dreary jury rooms.

COURTROOM 400 GOES TO BROADWAY

The furniture of Courtroom 400 had a 4-star performance in the play "Clarence Darrow" at the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre. George C. Scott's portrayal of Darrow allowed the audience to experience an exciting courtroom atmosphere made more authentic by the desks and chairs loaned by the Mitchell Courthouse. WLIF Radio sponsored a Mitchell Courthouse "Renovation and Restoration Night" at the Mechanic. A portion of the proceeds benefitted the Courthouse Foundation.

Darrow is famous for his defense of Leopold and Loeb, the "Monkey Trials" and his devotion to labor unions. According to the Daily Record, Darrow would have been interested in the man for whom the courthouse was renamed: "Mitchell was a man in the Darrow mold, a stubborn unquiet champion of the underdog, and an eloquent, reasoned voice for justice and social change."

Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan and Foundation president, Andrew J. Graham, who were instrumental in the arrangements expressed their appreciation for the needed support of the work of the Foundation.



Courtroom 400, 1989

THE BALTIMORE COURTHOUSE & LAW MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

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The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse
"can again one day serve the functional needs of
a courthouse while holding high regard for pre-
serving an example of past architectural achieve-
ment for future generations to enjoy."
Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, INC.