

Easement

PS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AA-1586

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Hall of Records (MD Inventory # AA-1586)
Other names/site number Old Hall of Records

2. Location

Street & Number St. Johns College [] Not for Publication
City, town Annapolis [] Vicinity N/A
State Maryland Code 003 Zip Code 21401

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		No. Resources w/in Prop.	
				Contr.	Noncontrib.
[x]	Private	[x]	Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Buildings
[]	Public-Local	[]	District	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Sites
[]	Public-State	[]	Site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Structure
[]	Public-Federal	[]	Structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Objects
		[]	Object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____
Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

National Park Service Certification

- I, _____, hereby, certify that this property is:
- [] entered in the National Register. _____
- () see continuation sheet
- [] determined eligible for the _____
- National Register. (see _____
- continuation sheet).
- [] determined not eligible for the _____
- National Register.
- [] removed from the National Register _____
- [] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT

Major Bibliographic References

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
 - previously listed in the NR
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- See continuation sheet
- Primary location of add. data:
- State SHPO office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository:
Maryland Hall of Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____
Under one acres

UTM References

A 1 / 8 / 3 / 7 / 0 / 5 / 7 / 1 / 4 / 3 / 1 / 5 / 4 / 8 / 0 /
 Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is generally rectangular in shape. The lot begins at an iron pipe located 20 feet north of the center line of St. John's Street and approximately 90 feet south of the sidewalk of College Avenue. It then proceeds northwest 138 feet, northeast 44 feet, northwest 19 feet, northeast 81 feet, southeast 170 feet, then southwest 125 feet to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These boundaries largely conform to the boundaries of the property as established when the building was constructed. However, given that the building will soon be enlarged below ground to the west, the boundaries of the property were expanded to incorporate the future addition to the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Carol Hooper/Architectural Historian Date January, 1995
 Organization Robinson & Associates, Inc.
 Street & Number 1710 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Telephone 202-234-2333
 City or Town Washington State District of Columbia
 Zip code 20009

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DESCRIPTION

With its attic story and compact massing, the Georgian Revival Hall of Records building provides a strong presence on the campus of St. Johns College. Constructed in 1934-35, the building provides an unexpected dichotomy between its simple exterior styling and more elaborate interior. It's exterior features carefully reproduced colonial brick in its walls, punctuated with large multipaned windows, and restrained wood moldings. Its interior features a lavish collection of ornate, although historically accurate, moldings. The fireproof building is functional -- with a core consisting of a self-supporting stack system -- and at the same time replete with major public spaces. The building presently strongly retains both interior and exterior integrity.

Exterior

The building, located roughly two blocks from the State House building in Annapolis, faces northeast onto a grassy quadrangle housing five other St. John's College buildings. A brick terrace is located in front of the building. A brick walk running northwest to southeast intersects the center of the terrace.

Cubical in form, the Hall of Records building makes a strong volumetric statement. It has a flat roof and is two stories high on the northwest and southeast sides with a tall attic story in the "I"-shaped center section. The building has masonry bearing walls, steel beams, and reinforced-concrete floor and roof slabs. Terrace walls are located to the northwest of the building.¹

Specially hand-made face brick, designed to reproduce Annapolis colonial brick in size, color, and texture are used for the exterior walls of the building. The brick is laid with tight joints in Flemish bond. The steps, coping, and finials of the terrace walls are white marble, while the exterior

¹Apparently the only landscaping elements original to the building were two yews of 9-to 10-foot spread located on the terrace in front of the building, and ivy planted on the terrace retaining wall.

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cornices, window frames and sash, and doors are wood, and elements such as copings, window sills and the capitals and bases of pilasters are limestone.

Front Facade

The front (northeast) facade of the building is five bays wide at the first and second stories and three bays wide at the attic story. The central three bays of the front facade are set off by a slight projection and a more highly decorative treatment. Simple Doric pilasters that alternate with the bays, and a heavier, more elaborate wooden cornice embellish this section.

Entrance to the building is up a flight of rounded marble steps, through an arched opening to a double door in the central bay. Pilasters frame the opening on the sides with egg and dart molding around the arched opening. Decorative scrolls support the heavy denticulated cornice which caps the entrance piece. The doors each feature three raised panels, the top being a horizontal panel, the lower two being vertical. A fanlight appears above the double doors. Windows on the entrance (first floor) level are 12-over-16 double-hung sash. These are capped with flat arches.

A simple brick belt course separates the narrower second story from the first story. The windows on the second level are smaller 6-over-12 double-hung sash, also with flat arches. A window replaces the entrance bay at this level. Crowning the second floor is a cornice, which on the simple end-bays is narrow and surmounted by a brick parapet. At the central three bays the cornice becomes more elaborate. The heavy denticulated cornice is inscribed with "1634 Hall of Records 1934."

Above the central section of the second floor is the attic story. The windows here are further reduced, consisting of 4-over-8 double-hung sash. Like the lower windows, they too are capped with a flat arch. The four simple Doric pilasters continue in this section. This story is topped with a simple wood cornice and parapet similar to that at the sides.

Side Elevations

With minor exceptions, the side elevations of the building are identical. Each is six bays wide, with the center four bays set off from the side bays by a slight projection. Unlike the front facade, the basement level is

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visible to some extent on both side facades. The basement level features quoining around each of the eight-pane fixed windows, at the edges of the central projecting section, and at the corners of the building.

The overall fenestration pattern of the front facade is continued on the sides, with the largest windows at the entrance level and increasingly smaller windows on the second and third floors. Here, at the first story, the windows are 20-over-20 double-hung sash in the central four bays (providing extra light to the research room) and 12-over-16 double-hung sash on the two side bays. All of the windows at the second-floor level on the southeast side are 8-over-12 double-hung sash. The windows on the northwest facade however consist of 16-pane fixed windows set in a round frame in the center bays and 8-over-twelve double-hung sash at the sides. At the attic level, there are only two windows which are visible at the two side bays. These consist of twelve-pane fixed sash. Separating the second and attic floors is the same simple wood cornice and parapet employed at the side of the front facade.

Rear Facade

The rear (southwest) facade is largely similar in form to the front facade. Like the front, it consists of five bays, the center three bays of which project slightly and rise to an attic story. The main difference between this facade and the front facade is in the fenestration. Because this section is adjacent to the library stacks section of the building, the center bays (first, second, and third floors) are currently blind -- without windows of any kind. As with the sides of the building, the basement floor of this facade is also low enough so that the basement level is visible. It is rusticated with an entrance located on the west corner.

Although today the exterior of the building is virtually unaltered (minor exceptions being such items as bars on a few basement windows), current plans call for a few significant changes. On the rear of the building, the fenestration pattern of the front of the building will be repeated, and window openings at all levels will be inserted. At the north corner of the building, where the building will be expanded underground, an entrance will be added. Above the underground addition, landscaping will be completed.

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Interior

The interior plan of all levels of the building except the third floor consists roughly of a horseshoe-shaped area surrounding the central rectangular stack area. Small square rooms (such as the stair hall, exhibition room, etc.) are located at the four corners of the building, and larger rectangular spaces are located in the center of the front and sides of the building. The third floor consists only of the stack area and the rectangular space at the center of the front of the building. Because the stack space has an independent floor and structural system and operates as a separate part of the building, it will be discussed as a whole at the end of the interior description.

In general, the interior of the building is unexpectedly elaborate. All of the public spaces, and many of the private spaces, are heavily ornamented with a wide diversity of reproduction Georgian moldings. The building is, in fact something of a catalogue of Georgian Revival moldings. All rooms on the first floor and many of the rooms on the second floor have unique ceiling cornices. Approximately a dozen different ceiling cornices alone are used in the building. The source for these moldings, where known, is supplied. However, the records of the building's architect, Laurence Hall Fowler, do link individual moldings to specific sources. It is likely that in addition to looking to local Annapolis architectural examples, Fowler relied heavily upon his extremely large collection of classical architectural works for sources. Given the wide diversity of possible sources, attributions for interior detailing based on visual comparison is simply not practicable.

Plaster walls, ceiling, and cornices with wood trim are used throughout the building. Floor materials used in the building include hexagonal red brick (used in the vestibule, stairhall, exhibition room, and parts of the basement), wood flooring (in the research room, conference room, front offices on the second and third floors) and carpeting over mastic tiles in all other spaces. In general wood or slate bases are used throughout.

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FIRST FLOOR

Memorial Vestibule (Room 203)

The main entrance opens onto one of two major public spaces in the building. This large (33' X 20') open space was originally referred to as the "Memorial Vestibule." Prominent features of the room are the original brass chandelier, heavy wood cornice, fretwork chair rail, large central arched openings on each wall, and pentagonal brick flooring.

According to the original program for the building,² "An ample and attractive vestibule should be provided which may be treated as the memorial feature of the building with a space for a suitable inscription." The "suitable inscription" mentioned in the program is the major focus of the room. Located opposite the entrance, it consists of a large wood plaque that states:

1634-1934
Hall of Records
Erected by the
State of Maryland
to Commemorate
The Founding of
the Province
and
to Provide for
the Safe-keeping
of the Records
of Province and State.
That our Heritage of
Toleration, Liberty
and
Self-Government
May Never Be
Forgotten

²"Programme for the Memorial Hall of Records." Records of the Board of Public Works Relating to the Hall of Records, 1931-34. Maryland Hall of Records (MdHR 16,376-49).

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This message is incised on a panel framed with a decorative (egg and dart) border. The top of the panel is embellished with a broken pediment with the shield of Maryland centered within the opening. At the lower corners of the plaque are lateral consoles. Supporting this panel is another panel framed by a simpler wood frame. It reads:

Board of Public Works
Albert C. Ritchie, Governor
Wm. S. Gordy Jr. John M. Dennis
Comptroller Treasurer
Maryland Tercentenary Commission
William I. Marbury, Chairman
Architect
Laurence H. Fowler

The arched opening that surrounds these plaques is identical to the openings in the other three walls; each consists of fluted pilasters below the spring line, with simpler wood molding at the haunches and a keystone above. Other openings in this room are at the windows on the outside wall. Here the moldings that frame the openings have the classic Georgian "eared" lintels. From the lintels, the molding runs parallel to the window's sides then curves to end in a squared base. Below the windows are window seats that open for storage. The area above the seat is also paneled. Based on visual comparison, it appears that the design for the window molding and seat was inspired by a similar design at Brice House in Annapolis.

Present alterations to the room, which are minimal, include vents and emergency lights to either side of the inscribed panel, and fire alarm boxes next to the entrance door. Current plans call for more major alteration, including the insertion of a staircase at the north end of the room and the removal of the wall opposite the entrance. The inscribed memorial panel currently on this wall will be removed and reinstalled elsewhere in the building.

On either end of the Memorial Vestibule, arched openings lead into paneled entry areas. The approximately 6-foot-long entry area on the north end of the vestibule contains a bathroom on one side and a spiral staircase to the second floor (assessable from the research room) on the other. To the south,

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these spaces contain a janitor's closet on one side and an elevator on the other side.

Exhibition Room (Room 217)

The Exhibition Room is entered from the south end of the Vestibule. On the outside of the room, the arched entrance is outlined in narrow molding. The door surround has the eared lintel seen in the vestibule. A broken pediment (with a crowned orb between the two sections) tops the door frame.

The highlight of the fully paneled Exhibition Room is the collection of glass display cases, which were integral to the room's original use. According to the program for the building this room was intended as "A small room for showing manuscripts and books of special interest . . . These exhibits, arranged by the archivist, would be changed from time to time."

Each wall in the room is divided into thirds by Ionic pilasters (with Scamozzi caps) that bracket a central opening and that are folded around each of the corners. On the exterior wall, the central opening is a window and on the interior walls it is a door. The side sections on each wall house the glass display cases. Above and below the display cases are raised wood panels.

The room's cornice is an unusual one with particularly articulated dentils. The door frames on the two interior walls are eared and capped with simple, but heavy, cornices. The floor of this room continues the brick tiles found in the vestibule.

Research Room (Room 216)

Adjacent to the Exhibit Room to the west is one of the primary public spaces in the building. The program for the building states:

This room should be sufficiently spacious to accommodate ten or twelve workers and a central control and information desk. Quietness and ample light, preferably a north or northeast exposure, are requisites. This room should connect directly to the stack room and to the catalogues, and also should have adjacent to it one or two small rooms available for special study

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The Research Room is a large (37'8' by 26') two-story open space. It features a tall, coved ceiling with oculi. The oculi are topped by a swag and framed by a narrow egg-and-dart decorative border. The four oculi on the southeast wall (the wall adjacent to the stacks) are blind, while those on all other walls contain fourteen fixed panes. Below the oculi is a full Doric order classical cornice. A simple molding surrounds the top (flat portion) of the ceiling, and wood raised-panel wainscotting topped by fretted molding embellishes the walls. A single brass chandelier, which appears to be original to the building, is located in the center of the room. Floors in this space are referred to as "old hard pine board"³ and because of their great width, appear to be quite old.

On the northwest wall of the room, four large windows dominate. Centered above each is an oculus. On the southwest, northeast (the narrow sides of the room) and southeast walls, elaborately framed entrances, located in the middle of the wall, are the central focus. On the nearly identical northeast and southwest walls, three-panel double doors are framed by Doric pilasters, and topped by a cornice and an elaborate broken pediment. The northeast wall has a door leading to a second floor office (on the south) and a closet (on the north) and a central entrance leading to the Exhibition Room. The side doors are concealed to appear to be part of the wall. The southeast wall has three openings. The central entrance into the stack area on this wall utilizes similar doors and door frames to those on the northeast and southwest walls. Here however, a clock, with a bird perched above, rests between the ends of the broken pediment. The opening at the west end of the room is a closet, while the opening at the east end leads to the Card Catalogue Room.

Conference Room (Room 213)

Located towards the back of the building from the Research Room is the Conference Room. This room, one of the four small square corner rooms on each floor, features a chair rail and decorative crown molding. The later is

³"Hall of Records," (with an annotation, "Original taken to Miss Kehs, Maryland Tercentenary Commission, Union Trust Building 12/27/34"). Maryland Hall of Records, Manuscripts (MSA SC 1103, 1104, 00/09/13/38).

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in a geometric, Chippendale-like design. Raised wood panels are located below the large windows located on the northwest and southwest walls. A pediment caps the door from the Research Room (the northeast wall). The room is carpeted.

Card Catalogue Room (Room 202)

The Card Catalogue Room is a long (9' x 35') room connecting the Research Room and the Land Office area on the southeast side of the building. It is technically located in part of what is the stack area on other floors.

The walls of the room are lined with maple card catalog boxes. However, on each wall there is an area for the storage of large flat material and two open areas which are currently occupied by file cabinets. A simple wood cornice employing fretwork ornamentation is located above the boxes, while the areas housing the catalogues are delineated by wood pilasters. Original plans for the buildings indicate that the room was intended to hold 1080 index drawers.

Alterations to the space are minimal. Current plans call for the demolition of this space. Certain of the trim may be reused in what will become the Rare Book Room.

Stair Hall (Room 204)

The main stair for the building is located to the south of the Memorial Vestibule. Consisting of three flights with landings between, it is an open walnut staircase with bracketed stairs. The hand rail and balusters are simple in design. The balusters are unornamented, while the hand rail curves upward to a squared point at the end of the first flight and ends in a spiral at the foot of the stairs. Below the stairs, at the first floor level, the wall is paneled with raised vertical and square panels that follow the rise of the stairs after the first landing. An entrance to the basement is located on the same wall. The southwest wall incorporates the entrance to the Land Office area. Windows are located on the northeast (first flight of stairs) and southeast walls (above the second flight). A single pendant glass fixture lights this space. At the second-floor level, the floor extends over the stair space, to form a rounded balcony area. The cornice at this level features an intricate knot-like design.

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This space is largely unaltered. Plans call for the addition of a door at the entrance to this room.

Land Office (Room 209)

Located on the southeast side of the building, the Land Office area is accessed from the Catalogue Room or through a passage area off of the Stair Hall. This passage area contains a bathroom on one side and a dumb waiter on the other.

The main area of this section is a long rectangular room with four large exterior windows on the southeast wall and nonoriginal interior partitions on the northwest wall. The northeast wall is entirely paneled, with raised vertical and horizontal panels. The room features a simple wood cornice with fretting, and simple wood window surrounds.

At the end of the large land office space, an arched entry way sheathed with raised wood panels leads to a separate office (Room 211, referred to as "Office 1" in the original plans). The entrance to this corner office consists of eight-panel double doors with a simple fanlight topped with a keystone above. The interior of the room features a simple chair rail and heavy cornice. The molding around the windows in this room are similar (although smaller) to those in the vestibule. The entire northwest wall of the room is paneled. It features a central arched bookcase with surrounding paneling covering closets on either side.

The area has been carpeted. Current plans call for the removal of the nonoriginal partitions and the insertion of openings between the work room and what is now the stack area.

SECOND FLOOR

Work Rooms 1 & 2 (Rooms 319-324)

Leading off from the stair hall on the southeast side of the building are the Work Rooms, originally intended for repairing, and perhaps cataloguing, records. The passage to this space from the Stair Hall contains service facilities including the dumb waiter, bathrooms, and a janitor's closet (Rooms 315-318).

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Work Room 1 (Room 319), the first area entered from the passage, was originally a large rectangular open area that is now broken up by partitions on the southeast side (Rooms 320-321). The decorations in this room are simpler than in the first floor rooms, consisting of simple narrow molding around doors and at the chair rail.

Work Room 2 (Room 324), located at the southern corner of the building, continues the simple molding of Work Room 1. The northwest elevation is covered with flush wood boarding, behind which are located four cupboards.

The area is carpeted. Current plans call for the removal of the non-original partitions and the removal of the northwest wall in Work Room 1.

Offices 3, 4, and 5 (Rooms 303-306, 314)

This area is entered from the west side of the Stair Hall through an entry area (Room 308) that contains the elevator and the main staircase leading to the third floor extension.

The cornice, chair rail molding, and window molding is consistent throughout Offices 3-5 and is both more elaborate and larger than that used in the Work Rooms.

Office 3, the first office off of the stair hall was intended as an office for the secretary and clerk or messenger. Currently the original space is broken up by a nonoriginal partition on the northeast side of the room. An original partition wall between Offices 3 and 4 consists of vertical raised wood panels with similar horizontal panels at the wainscoting level. The partition features a six-panel door with an eared lintel above the door. The room is carpeted.

Office 4, located off of Office 3, was originally the Office of the Assistant Archivist. The northeast side of this room too has been divided up (using partitions) into multiple offices. On the southwest wall of the room is a door leading to the stack area, a concealed door on the northwest wall leads to a spiral staircase that connects to the research room. The northwest and southeast walls of this room are similar. Both are entirely paneled with raised vertical and horizontal panels. The northwest wall is open in the middle to the entry area for Office 5. This entry area contains the spiral

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stair on one side and a closet and bathroom on the other. The room is carpeted.

Office 5 originally served as the Office of the Archivist. The program for the building states that:

It is desirable that this office should be so located that the archivist may be free from constant interruption, though accessible to those having definite business with him. also it should have access both to the stacks and to the research room &, to some extent, should overlook the latter . . .

The sequencing of the Offices 3-5 was clearly intended to divert the public from interrupting the Archivist as required in the program.

This room is entirely paneled, using a mixture of raised horizontal and vertical panels. The northeast and northwest sides of this room feature windows to the outside, while centered on the southwest wall is one of the oculus windows that overlooks the Research Room. Cabinets are located within the southwest wall to either side of the oculus. A concealed door on the northeast wall gives direct access to the bathroom. The room features wood floors.

Planned alterations to the space include the removal of nonoriginal partitions in Offices 3 and 4 and removal of the original partition between Offices 3 and 4, which will be reinstalled elsewhere in the building.

Study Room (Room 325)

Accessible only from a special staircase in the first-floor Conference Room, the Study Room is the western corner room on the second floor. It features exterior windows on the southwest and northwest walls and an oculus window on the northeast wall. A simple chair rail, bookshelves on either side of the oculus, and a simple cornice provide additional decoration. The room is currently carpeted.

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THIRD FLOOR (Rooms 402, 403, 406, 407)

Most of the third floor is composed of the stack area, described below. The non-stack area of the third floor is located at the front of the building. It is referred to in the original plans as "the extension" and early photographs of the room show it as a large open space occupied by a few chairs and a single table. This may have originally been intended as a space for meetings or assemblies.

Stairs with balusters featuring a Chippendale design, lead from the second floor into the middle of the extension. Partitions currently divide up what was originally one room into three separate offices and a passage area. Decorative features of this room are simple: a coved ceiling on the long sides of the room with a simple cornice, a narrow chair rail, and simple molding around the exterior windows. The two ends of the space have differing functions. On the southeast side are the elevator, janitor's closet, and fan room, and on the northwest wall are closets angled in to frame the exterior window.

STACK AREA

An area critical to the building's charge to provide safe storage for the state's records, the stack area is the functional core of the building. It features what was, at the time of the building's construction, the state-of-the-art stack system manufactured by the industry's premier manufacturer, Sned & Company.

The program for the building states:

Central to the administrative units . . . there should be a stack room of sufficient capacity to hold all the records now available, or likely to be acquired in the near future . . . The stack room will be equipped with the most approved modern form of steel stack, in tiers about 7'6" high connected by stairs and book lift. It is estimated that five tiers, each with an area of about 2400 square feet, will take care of the requirements . . . Within the stack itself it should be possible to enclose and lock certain spaces as alcoves for holding special collections . . . At intervals throughout the stack there should be

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connections for attaching vacuum cleaners . . . The stacks should be provided with abundant artificial light and conditioned air, natural light and natural air with its varying degrees of humidity and cleanness being injurious to the books and document.

As mentioned, the stacks are located in a separate rectangular area at the center and back of the building. This section of the building not only has an independent structural system (the stacks are self-supporting) it also has an independent air-conditioning system,⁴ and independent floor levels.⁵ It includes six tiers (floors) of metal bookstacks and five deck floors.

Bookshelves are generally double-sided (i.e., open on both sides) and are located in parallel rows at right angles to the walls. These rows are referred to as ranges. Each of the six floors has a central aisle with approximately twelve ranges on either side of the aisle.

The bookshelves are composed of cast-iron skeleton shelf supports (uprights) located on either end of each shelf. The uprights have a continuous row of teeth on the front edge, and a corresponding row of hooks on the side and back that carry the shelves. The central member of the uprights (i.e., the vertical element between the front and back shelf areas) is a structural steel column carrying all overhead loads. The uprights are attached at the top and bottom to structural steel deck bars, which support the decks (or floors). Uprights are located directly above one another on each floor. The uprights located on the aisles have mounted light switches and V-shaped Range Indicators. Ranges are protected by locking steel wire screens. These screens include a panel that functions as a door in front of the aisle.

⁴ Until 1967, it was the only part of the building to be air-conditioned.

⁵ Stack floors are 7'6" high, while in the rest of the building the basement is 11', the first floor is 15', the second floor is 11'4", and the third floor is 11'3". Thus, the second tier of stacks is at the same level as the first floor, and the second floor is at the same level as the 4th tier. At the basement level, the height of the first tier is about four feet above the level of the basement floor.

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Individual shelves are 15" deep and are of open bar construction. They consist of an open grating of parallel steel bars 1/2 inch wide and 1/4 inch apart. The steel is smooth and rounded on the top and open on the bottom. Bars are made from tempered cold rolled, pickled and annealed steel strips. The shelves have lugs on their front corners and claw notches on the back corners that align with the notches and hooks on the uprights. The lowest shelf in each range is fixed and of solid steel construction.

Floors/ceilings are of reinforced concrete slab construction. Floors are covered with asphalt tile. Ceilings are painted and currently host a variety of nonoriginal lighting and fire detection systems. The original lighting in this section of the building appears to have been bare incandescent bulbs.

A closed metal staircase that goes between the tiers is located in roughly the center of the stack space. The stacks are also equipped with an electric booklift, which is located across from the stairs. The green metal booklift has the original push buttons to select the floors and a speaking tube.

Alterations in the stack area are minimal. The steel wire to prevent access to the stacks was added in 1936. The 6th level of stacks was fitted with shelving in 1938, and this shelving is solid rather than of open bar construction. Also in 1938, the entrance from the basement to the lowest tier was cut in. At this time also steel doors with combination locks were added at the first floor level. Current plans call for the demolition of the entire stack area.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Maryland Hall of Records Building at once stands as a monument to the celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the Maryland colony, a textbook example of the 1930s-era interpretation of Georgian Architecture, and one of the first modern state archive facilities in the nation. Because of the building's significance as an archival institution, and its importance as a symbol of the celebration of the tercentenary of the founding of Maryland, the building qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Because of its exemplary Georgian-revival styling, in particular its encyclopedic collection of reproduction colonial-era moldings, the building also qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Construction History

Although over the years other buildings have been constructed to house Maryland state records, by the turn of the century the state's records were scattered among a number of locations and not stored under appropriate environmental conditions. The 1930s was a period when throughout the country increased record-keeping (some of which was associated with federal Depression-era agencies) was causing the proliferation of paper records, and the linked issues of how to store these records.⁶

The idea of constructing a building to properly house Maryland's historic (and nonhistoric) records surfaced soon after the appointment of the Tercentenary Commission. This Commission was appointed in 1928 by Governor Albert C. Ritchie to make preparations for the celebration in 1934 of the three-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Province. The Tercentenary Commission, in addition to forwarding the cause of the Hall of

⁶The National Archives, for instance, was established by an Act of Congress in 1934 to "select, preserve, arrange, describe and make available to the Government and public noncurrent Government records that have continuing value." Construction of the National Archives building preceded the establishment of the specific federal agency. The building was begun in 1932, partially occupied in 1935, and completed in 1937.

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Records building sponsored a number of activities related to the anniversary. One such event was the erecting of a tablet at Cowes, England, to commemorate the sailing of Lord Baltimore's ships, the Ark and the Dove.

One of the earliest and strongest promoters of the idea of a Hall of Records was the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Carroll T. Bond. In 1931, Judge Bond and members of the commission, in particular Senator Ridgely P. Melvin, were successful in winning an appropriation of \$200,000 from the state legislature to construct a building "to house the rare and valuable historical papers owned by the State of Maryland."

With funding secured, plans for the facility proceeded with the Maryland Board of Public Works now fully involved in the project.⁷ The Board of Public Works was the State Agency charged with, among other things, oversight of state construction projects. Members of the Board included the Governor Albert C. Ritchie, State Comptroller William S. Gordy, Jr., and State Treasurer John M. Dennis.

By 1931, the Tercentenary Committee and the Board were considering possible architects for the project. Architects from Philadelphia and Baltimore sent in letters of interest, or had members of the Maryland legislature send in favorable reports of their work to the Board. Although there was some discussion of the possibility of a competition, in the end the Committee and Board simply made their own decision. Laurence Hall Fowler, architect of Baltimore's War Memorial, was appointed to the project in April 1932. Although it is not clear how Fowler was successful in winning the commission for the Hall of Records, it is clear from correspondence that he had a close relationship with Governor Ritchie.⁸ It is interesting to note that the basic

⁷The relationship between the Board and the Tercentenary Commission relative to the Hall of Records project never seems to have been completely clarified. The Board, having control of the funding, in general seems to have been more involved, although both bodies reviewed drawings and were involved in the decisionmaking process. Apparently, there never was fundamental disagreement between the two that forced a clarification of roles.

⁸A number of the letters from Ritchie to Fowler are addressed "Dear Laurence."

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style of the Hall of Records building was clearly determined before the selection of Fowler.

Fowler was a Baltimore architect with a practice that included both a few well-known commercial and governmental projects and substantial domestic work conducted throughout the state. Born in Catonsville, Maryland, in 1876, Fowler was the son of a local judge. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1898, and completed graduate studies in Architecture at Columbia University in 1902. He worked briefly in New York (first with Bruce Price and then with Boring and Tilton) before leaving for the grand tour of Europe. While in Europe he passed the entrance exams for the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, however circumstances apparently forced him to return to Baltimore. Upon his return, he worked first with the firm of Wyatt and Volting, then, beginning in 1906, on his own. His larger projects included the War Memorial Building and Plaza, the Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building, and the Hurd Memorial Hall, all in Baltimore. In Annapolis, in addition to completing the Hall of Records, he also designed the State Office Building (with Henry P. Hopkins) and did work on the Old Treasury Building and the Senate Chambers. His domestic work included some 80 houses located throughout the East Coast (most though concentrated in Maryland). Fowler's work has been characterized as showing "subtle refinement, elegant proportions, and careful attention to landscaping."⁹ Fowler was also an avid bibliophile, whose collection of classical books on architecture (including Alberti, Serlio, Vignola, Palladio, and Scamozzi) and on the works of English, French, and German architects was to become the basis of the large Fowler Architectural Library at Johns Hopkins University.

Meanwhile, a more difficult problem for the Board and Commission was the question of where to locate the Hall of Records building. As early as 1929, St. John's College had conveyed an interest in housing such a facility on its campus. For the college, having such a facility close would give students and staff easy access to important historical documents and other facilities.

Although the school officially approved the conveyance of an unidentified site to the State for this purpose in September 1931, and the current site was soon isolated as the optimal location, there were strong objections by

⁹John Dorsey and James D. Dilts, A Guide to Baltimore Architecture. Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1981.

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members of the college to the project -- in particular to the size of the proposed building and to the potential that it might expand farther onto College property.

Between April, when he received the commission, and August 1932, when Fowler completed the first plans, the architect worked on the specifications for the building and researched a number of its aspects. Because this apparently was one of the first modern state archive buildings, Fowler spent a great deal of time visiting other libraries and repositories to come up with a program for the building. In particular, Fowler went to the Library of Congress and met with planners for the new National Archives building in Washington to study the space requirements for this type of facility. While in Washington, he also studied bookstacks equipment. He also went to New York to look at lighting fixtures, and went to a number of Georgian homes in Annapolis to examine and measure interior details. His visits to Whitehall, Brice House, and Hammond-Harwood House are documented.

Fowler's August 1932 plans show a building with roughly the same layout and design as the current building. Apparently in response to the original plans, the Chairman of St. John's Buildings and Grounds Committee suggested that St. John's would withdraw its offer for the land based on the size of the building.¹⁰ To respond to the complaints of St. John's College, Fowler's revised design (also apparently his final design) made the building dimensions slightly smaller and changed its orientation to face inward towards the campus. The addition of an elevator was done at the request of the Tercentenary Commission.¹¹

Final plans for the building were completed over a year later, in October 1933. The delay appears to have been due in part to the negotiations with St. John's concerning the building's size but mostly to the necessity to find additional sources of funding. This additional funding eventually came from

¹⁰S.W. Labrot to Herbert Nobel, September 15, 1932. Board of Public Works Records, Hall of Records, 1931-34. MDHR 16,376-49.

¹¹The third floor may also have had a different plan. However, the original plan for the third story is missing from the documentation and therefore this cannot be substantiated.

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Public Works Administration (PWA) funds, which amounted to \$65,000.¹² Although for many PWA-funded projects, a federal funding source was a fundamental rationale for construction, in this case, it appears that it was simply a convenient source to make up the shortfall in funding. With the additional funding in place, in January 1934, the project was awarded to the Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore for a price of \$191,300.

Contractors for the project were selected beginning in March of that year. The two largest subcontractors were Snead & Company, selected for construction of the stacks (see below) (construction price \$37,330.00) and John C. Knipp & Sons of Baltimore for the interior wood work (\$22,600). Other subcontractors/suppliers are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subcontractor</u>
Clearing & Excavation	State Contracting & Landscaping Co., Baltimore, MD
Steel, Iron	Dietrich Brothers, Baltimore, MD
Limestone	Walker Brothers Stone Co., Bloomington, Ind.
Waterproofing	Walter S. Brauns, Baltimore, MD
Sheet Metal	William F. Zeller Co., Baltimore, MD
Fire Doors, Tile Floors etc.	William E. Gambrill Co., Baltimore, MD
Millwork	Oettinger Lumber Co., Baltimore, MD
Plastering	Frant P. Lozupone Co., Baltimore, MD
Tile, Marble, Slate	Standard Art Marble & Tile Co., Washington, D.C.
Mirrors	J.F. Eustis Mfg. Co, Boston, MA
Glass	Swindell Brothers, Baltimore, MD
Glazing	J. Marks, Baltimore, MD,
Sprinklers	Automatic Sprinkler Corp. of America, Baltimore, MD
HVAC	Riggs, Distler & Co., Inc.
Electric	Howard P. Foley Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD
Elevators	General Elevator Co., Baltimore, MD

¹²The PWA was created to increase employment in the building trades (and the factories that supply the building industry) through the construction of "permanent and useful" public projects. Construction of PWA projects began in 1933, under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933.

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Weather Stripping	Chamberlain Metal Weather Strip, Baltimore, MD
Venetian Blinds	J.G. Wilson Corporation, Baltimore, MD
Hardware	MacCarthy Hardware, Baltimore, MD
Wood Flooring	Albert C. Hobelmann, Baltimore, MD
Roof Insulation	Home Insulation Co., Baltimore, MD
Lighting	Chester W. Snyder & Associates, Inc., Baltimore, MD
Furniture (Memorial Vestibule)	C.F. Meislahn & Co., Baltimore, MD
Furniture (Offices)	John C. Knipp, Baltimore, MD
Furniture (Chairs for Offices)	John G. Matthews, Baltimore, MD

Construction was completed in the spring of 1935. Construction costs amounted to \$203,018, while the total project cost was \$212,780.¹³

When completed, the building was written up in both architectural trade magazines and in the Public Works Administration book documenting the works the program had funded.¹⁴ These sources provide insight into the Architect's problems with, and his theories behind, the design of the building.

As mentioned previously, the "colonial" style for the building was determined before Fowler was selected. However, Fowler definitely embraced the style and made clear that the colonial styling was appropriate for two reasons: first, because of the tie to the commemorative nature of the building, and second because of the surroundings -- both the immediate St. John's buildings and the town of Annapolis. Fowler clearly took pains to make the building as accurate to the period as possible. This is evident not only in his efforts to measure moldings used in other Annapolis buildings to ensure that those in the Hall of Record building were accurate, but also in his correspondence. Discussing the commemorative plaque located in the Memorial Vestibule, Fowler

¹³Most of the additional costs were for furniture and equipment for the building.

¹⁴Short, C.W., and R. Stanley-Brown, Public Works Administration. Public Buildings, A Survey of Architecture. 1939.

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writes to the Secretary of the Board of Public Works J.O. McCusker complaining of PWA requirements concerning building signs, "Because of the commemorative character of this building, great care has been taken to make every detail conform to colonial precedent."¹⁵

Fowler's emphasis on the details of the building is, perhaps, the most amazing feature of the building. Not only did he duplicate literally dozens of authentic colonial moldings, he also designed much of the furniture for the building (none of which appears to remain on site).

One of Fowler's biggest challenges was in coming up with ways of reducing the building's size. This was done in part to satisfy St. Johns' concerns, but it was also done so that the building would not overwhelm the other buildings located on the quadrangle. According to Fowler, the "greatest of all problems" was that of size:

The minimum requirements for the Hall of Records called for a building having a cubic content considerably greater than that of any other building on the campus. It became necessary, therefore, to arrive at some design which should be large enough to meet these minimum requirements, while still appearing small enough to take its proper place among the other less extensive buildings of the group. In its final form, the mass of the structure was largely determined by the necessity for it to appear as small as possible; it was therefore given a flat roof, in this respect following an English rather than the American precedent.¹⁶

In addition to using a minimizing roof design, Fowler also compressed interior spaces into a tight design that used every possible inch, while still retaining important public spaces.

¹⁵Laurence Hall Fowler to J.O. McCusker 2/13/1935. Records of the Board of Public Works, Hall of Records, 1934-49 MdHR 16,376-50.

¹⁶"Hall of Records Annapolis, Maryland," The Architectural Record, March 1936.

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The orientation/setting of the building was another problem. The natural tendency to have the building face the major street, College Avenue, was not possible since St. John's College insisted that the building be constructed to face the other buildings on the quadrangle.¹⁷ As such it had to balance in style (as well as size) the small college library located across from it. Turning the axis of the building in this way made necessary the addition of a brick walk from College Avenue which would help advertise accessibility to the general public.

Bookstacks

The building's stacks represent its functional heart, and today is an increasingly rare example of what was at one time the technology of choice for library shelving.

The selection of the Sned Company for the construction of the Hall of Records stacks may have been due simply to the fact that they were, at the time, the leading manufacturer of "modern type" metal bookshelves and as such, the supplier of shelving to most major libraries in the United States.¹⁸ But the records also show that the Secretary of the Board of Public Works as early as 1932 sent Fowler a booklet on Sned Stacks. According to the accompanying letter, the booklet, "was turned over to me some time ago by Judge Bond."¹⁹ So, in fact, Fowler's selection of Sned may have also been politically appropriate.

¹⁷This apparently was made a condition of St. John's gift of the land to the State of Maryland.

¹⁸By 1931, the "Partial List of Sned Stack Installations," included in their catalogue numbers 261. The locations vary from universities, to public libraries, to federal facilities. Sned also had a fairly large number of international clients, the most notable of which was the Vatican.

¹⁹Letter to Laurence Hall Fowler from Secretary McCusker, dated June 1, 1932. Records of the Board of Public Works, Hall of Records, 1931-34, MdHR 16,376-49.

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After the selection of Snead, it seems clear that at the Hall of Records, like most other sites, the architect left most of the specifics of the stack design to Snead.

Development of the Snead Stack System

The history of the development of book stacks begins in 1875-76 with the design of a "stack wing" for Gore Hall at Harvard University. The first known "stack," it was developed by architect and professor William R. Ware (of Ware and Van Brunt) in conjunction with Harvard Librarian John Sibley. The stacks were made of cast-iron frames and wooden shelves and had perforated decks. At the 1879 Library Conference, Henry Van Brunt disparaged the older system of library design: "Doubtless we made a false start by endeavoring to adapt our large public collections to the traditional and architectural library halls, surrounded by chapel-like alcoves, in several stories."²⁰

Endeavoring to make a new start, librarians and architects participated in a lively debate of the merits of library design and furnishings in the last decades of the 19th century. Discussions included the merits of various book storage plans, which ultimately came down to a comparison of two versions--one which stacked vertically, and the other which spread laterally.

The Library of Congress Stacks

With the final plan for the Library of Congress in 1888, and the design in 1889-90 of customized stacks to hold its collection, it seemed as though the vertical stack plan had won the day. Bernard R. Green, a civil engineer with the Office of the Chief of Engineers (the predecessor group to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), was assigned to be a superintendent of the construction of the Library.

Greatly improving upon the Gore Hall stack plan, Bernard R. Green, as engineer in charge of the construction of public buildings in Washington, catapulted the stack plan into national prominence. By 1898, Green had been offered the position of Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at the

²⁰ "Library Buildings," The American Architect and Building News, December 1, 1888.

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Library of Congress. He obtained several patents on his stack design, and spoke widely in public forums, expounding upon his invention--a book storage system capable of handling the Library's initial capacity of roughly 2.5 million books.

Green advertised for a contractor to build his stacks. The Sned & Company Iron Works, as the lowest bidders, was awarded the contract. In operation since 1850, the company was based in Louisville, Kentucky, and headed by Udolfo Sned. Developing what appears to have been a sole source cooperative agreement with Sned, the "Green" system as manufactured by Sned became the most popular form of public and educational library shelving in the years between 1890 and 1930s.

At the Library of Congress, Green worked with architects Smithmeyer and Pelz to design and construct major portions of the building around his book stack program. Specifically, the building's floor heights in the stack areas were keyed to the height of the tiers, in addition, the windows in the Library's stack areas were positioned at the ends of each of the stack's "ranges" in order to illuminate each of the ranges.²¹

Green developed eighteen criteria for the Library of Congress stacks, which would be duplicated as "Requisites of a Library Book Stack" in subsequent Sned & Company's literature. Some of the key design features of the stacks were: 1) simple, rigid construction; 2) self-sufficiency, in other words, the ability for each tier to support the one above it, and, if need be, the ability of a tier of books to support the story above it; 3) readily adjustable shelves of smooth surface; 4) the capacity to hold books of different sizes; 5) the ability for light to illuminate the shelves and ranges; 5) the opportunity for ventilation and the lack of opportunity for the accumulation of dust and "vermin."

The stacks featured the trademarks of Sned & Company construction methods and materials: a system of steel columns and "diaphragm plates" to serve as the frame for the stacks and their flooring; marble deck floors, to permit greater transmission of light between floors; and shelves of cold rolled steel bent into an inverted section. Straight-run stairs, a hydraulic

²¹ "Monument of Books, Mr. Bernard R. Green Describes the Congressional Library," The Evening Star, November 27, 1896.

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elevator for the passage of attendants handling books (complete with a "mechanical book carrier"), and a pneumatic tube communication system, were other essential components of the Snead system.

The flexibility of the system was its watchword. Shelves could be removed from the ranges thereby creating a passage for walking between ranges, or a convenient place for a desk or closet. Up to 20 tiers could be added to the system, without the need to modify its foundation or supports. Back-to-back shelves set at the exact same level could be used as one, wide shelf for material such as atlases.

Three years after their design for the Library of Congress, the Green-Snead stacks were featured in the 1893 World's Columbia Exposition, where they housed the collection of the American Library Association and won both a medal and a diploma.

Snead & Company

Judging by the number of installations of their stacks in the first two decades of the 20th century, Snead & Company appears to have leapt to public prominence upon the advent and proclaimed success of the Library of Congress book stacks. Snead's 1901 catalogue was titled "Book Stack and Shelving for Libraries" and featured the plans and photographs of the Library of Congress cited as "Green's Patent Book Stack and Shelving." Their 1908 catalog included a partial list of libraries using the "Green System" which numbered 52 listings. Next to the Library of Congress, Snead's second-largest book stacking contract was signed with the New York Public Library, built circa 1908 to hold four million books.

Snead's construction method for all of these early installations was essentially the same as that used at the Library of Congress: cast-iron shelf supports ("uprights"), steel "deck bars," bolted to the uprights at each deck level, connected continuously from wall to wall within the stack system and

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anchored to the building's walls for rigidity.²² Range fronts could be made up in a number of designs and using, if desired wooden veneer fronts.

Their 1908 catalog also featured the "General Principles" of their stack design:

- Books most advantageously shelved in double-faced parallel ranges
- All parts of fireproof material
- Shelves approximately 9 inches wide, 3 feet long and perfectly flat
- Stack tiers uniform and superimposed upon one other
- Tiers seven feet from deck to deck
- Thin, open-work shelf supports
- Solid decks, preferably of white marble, secondly of glass for translucency
- Longitudinal slit of approximately 5 inches between shelf ranges
- Electrical lighting preferred.

Since daylight was no longer considered an essential ingredient of a stack's design, Snead could appeal to a broader audience, saying "location (of the stacks in a library) is no longer a serious architectural or administrative question."²³ In addition, Snead attempted to appeal to smaller facilities, "low shelving of but one or two tiers in height, which is sufficient for the

²²Steel competed with cast iron as the stack manufacturing material of choice. The Art Metal Construction Company of Jamestown New York, one of Snead's main competitors by the 1930s, for example, specialized in all-steel stacks.

²³ "Book Stack and Shelving for Libraries, Designed by Bernard R. Green, C.E.," The Snead and Company Iron Works, Jersey City, New Jersey, 1908.

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needs of small libraries, such as those of city, districts, towns, smaller colleges, etc., is readily constructed on the same plan as the lofty stack."²⁴

In later years, Snead placed an increasing emphasis on its library work over its other iron work. The company was able to take out a patent of its own by 1914, advertising in Sweet's of that year with multiple shelving products, including the "Snead Standard Stack" alongside the "Green-Snead Bookstack." The company also had developed a newspaper stack, bracket bookstack, multi-purpose metal shelving, and metal and glass museum cases. It continued to manufacture its traditional line of architectural and ornamental iron works (elevator grilles, lamps, marquees), and the more mundane foundry equipment and machines.²⁵ The company's list of installations illustrated both the firm's increasing dominance in the field of library stacks and their work with the leading architectural firms of the day: Carrere & Hastings at the New York Public Library; McKim, Mead and White (not only at the Army War College), at Columbia University; George B. Post at the Wisconsin State Capitol; Cass Gilbert at the Arkansas State Capitol; Albert Kahn at the University of Michigan Library, etc.

By the 1930s, catalogues indicated there was an increased emphasis on the custom-design aspects of Snead's work. The 1930s also saw the first appearance of the "bracket type stack" (the non-self supporting shelf that is currently used in libraries) in the Snead catalogue. Although selling both the bracket and the standard Snead stack, Snead's preference for its traditional stack comes through. The catalogue suggests that the bracket type shelf is "less expensive in first price and transportation costs and more easily erected by local workmen," while the Standard type are, "often preferred for their architectural merit, compactness, convenience, rigidity, completeness in detail and superiority of finish." The Snead catalogue of the 1930s also emphasized Snead's ability to "equip fully both the stack and the service rooms of the modern library--including lighting, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, deck flooring, book conveying facilities, and all the accessories of the efficient stack room."

²⁴ 1908 Snead's catalog.

²⁵ Sweet's Catalogue, advertisement for The Snead & Company Iron Works, Inc., 1914, page 1794.

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By the 1950s, with the increasing popularity of the bracket type stack, the Snead catalogues show a basic shift away from library shelving to office furnishings, in particular customized office partitions. In 1943, the company moved its headquarters from Jersey City to Orange, New Jersey.

Although by the time of the construction of the Hall of Records, the bracket type shelf was becoming increasingly popular, the installation of the standard type Snead shelving system, predicated as it was on the ideals of permanence and quality production, matched well with the building's overall program and made the selection a predictable one. True to its reputation, the bookstack system functioned well over the many years the building was used as an archives.

Conclusion

The Maryland Hall of Records is, at once, a textbook example of the 1930s-era interpretation of Georgian Architecture, and one of the first modern state archive facilities in the nation. It is also a symbol of the importance placed on the history of Maryland in the 1930s, in particular the attention given to the celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the Maryland colony. The building currently is also one of a diminishing number of libraries and archives utilizing what was, from the turn of the century to the 1930s, the technology of choice for quality installations of library bookstacks.

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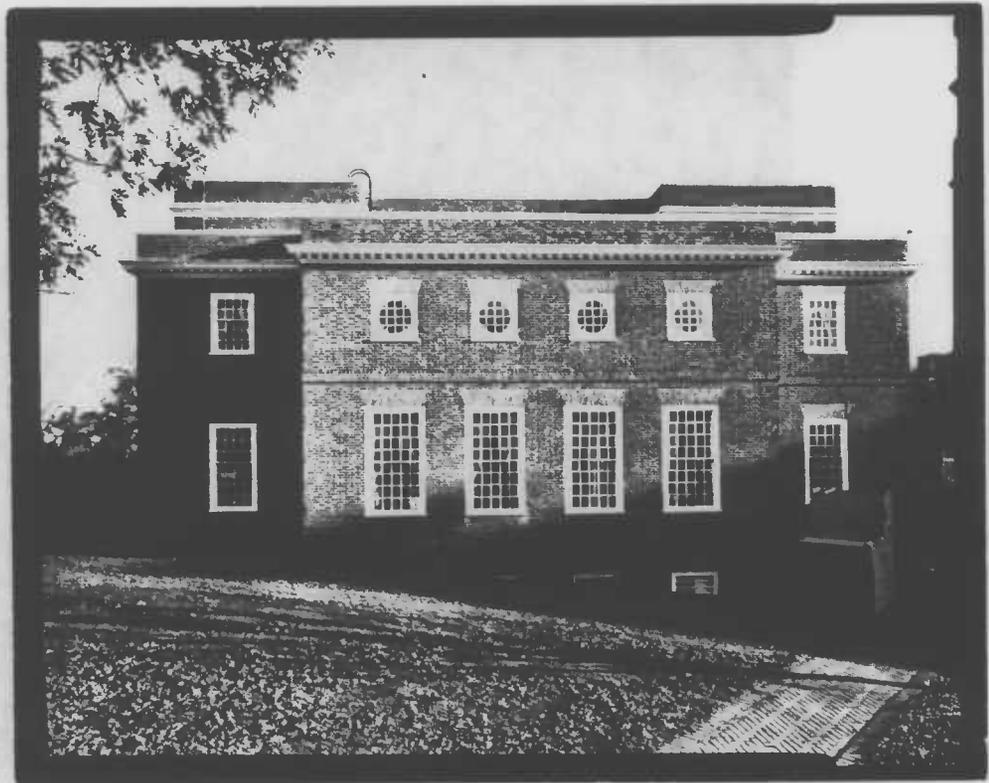
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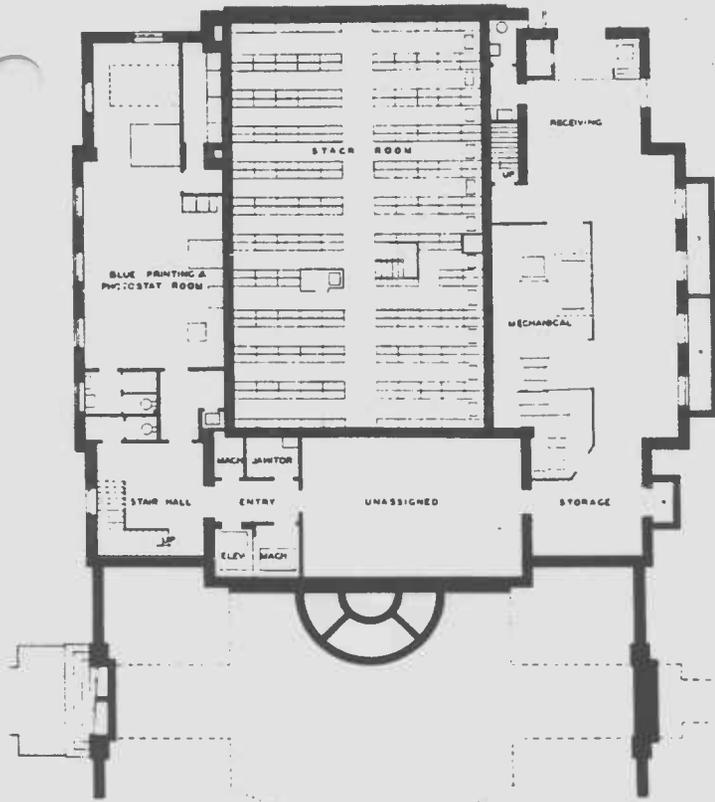
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(See MIHP Collection for original photographs.)

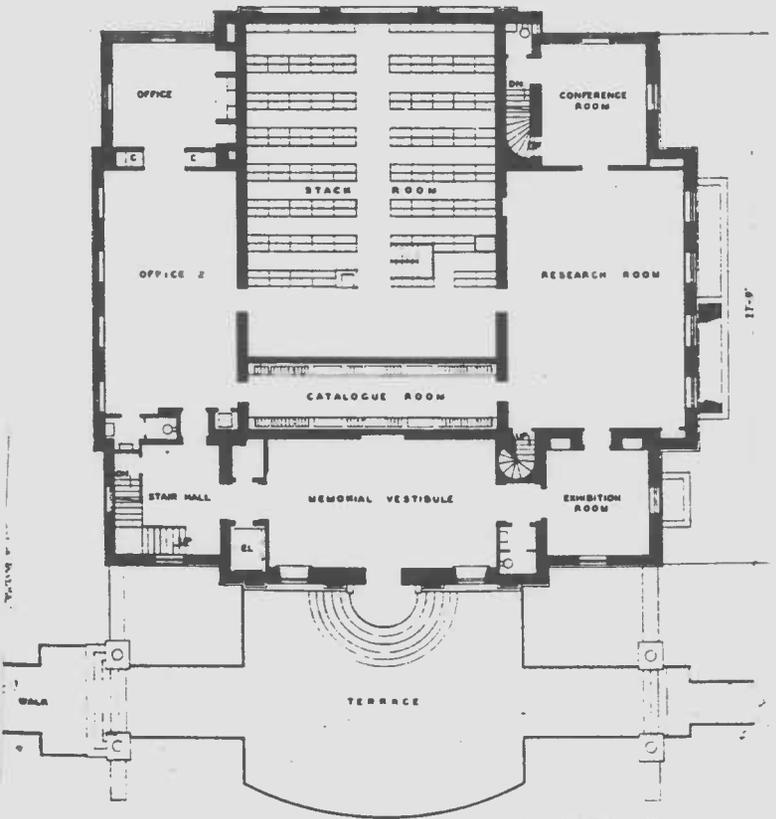


AA-1586

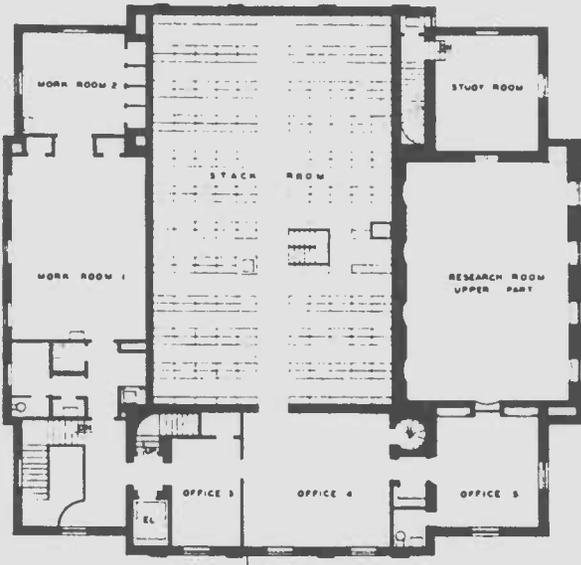




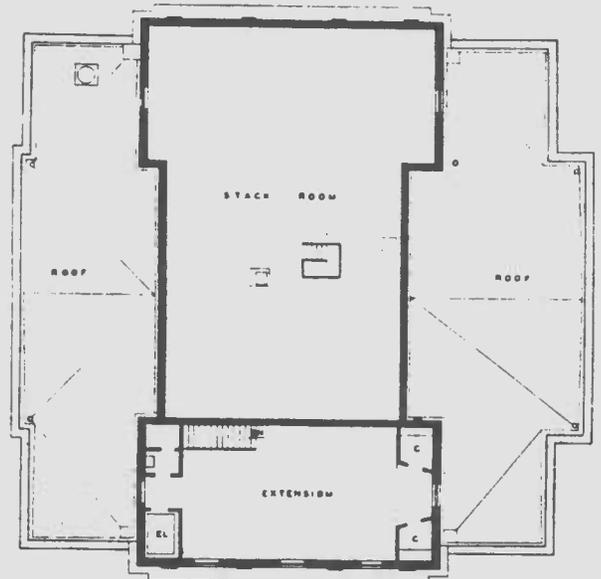
Basement



1st Floor



2nd Floor



3rd Floor

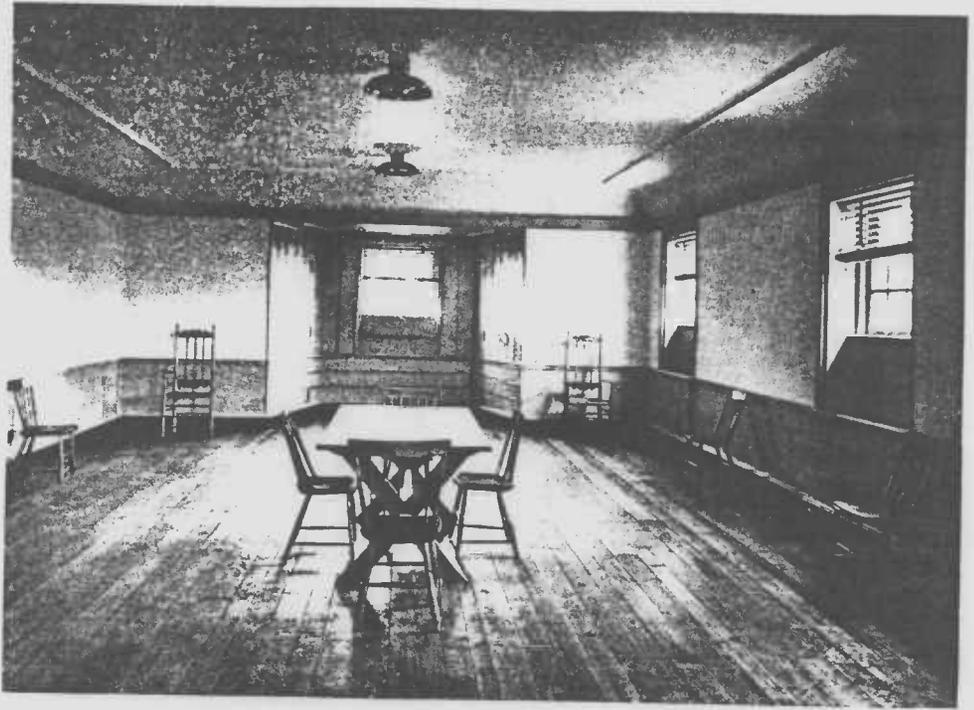
AA-1586
 Hall of Records
 Plans, circa 1934
 Architectural Record, March 1936



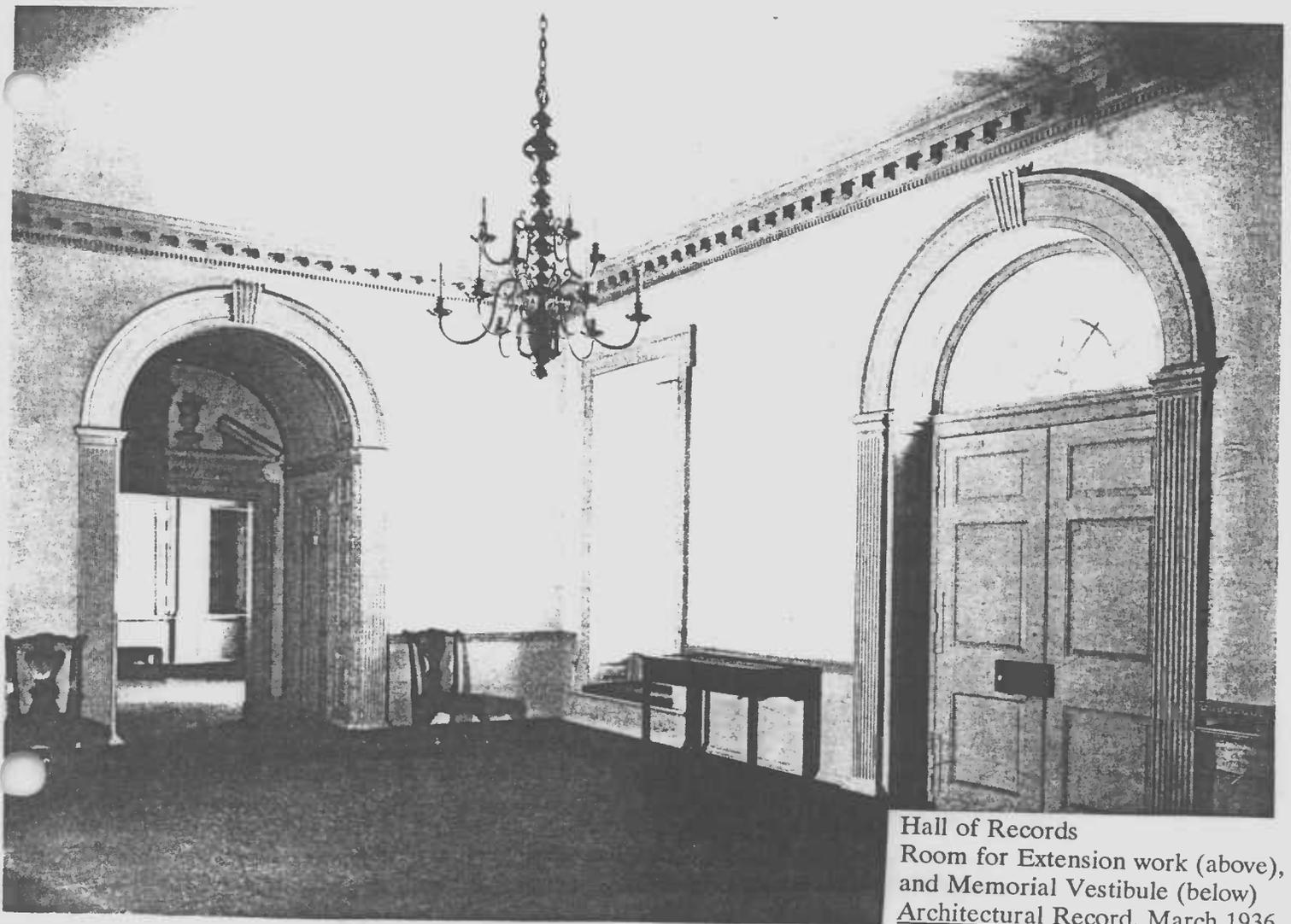
Hall of Records
Front Facade
Architectural Record, March 1936
AA-1586

HALL OF RECORDS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

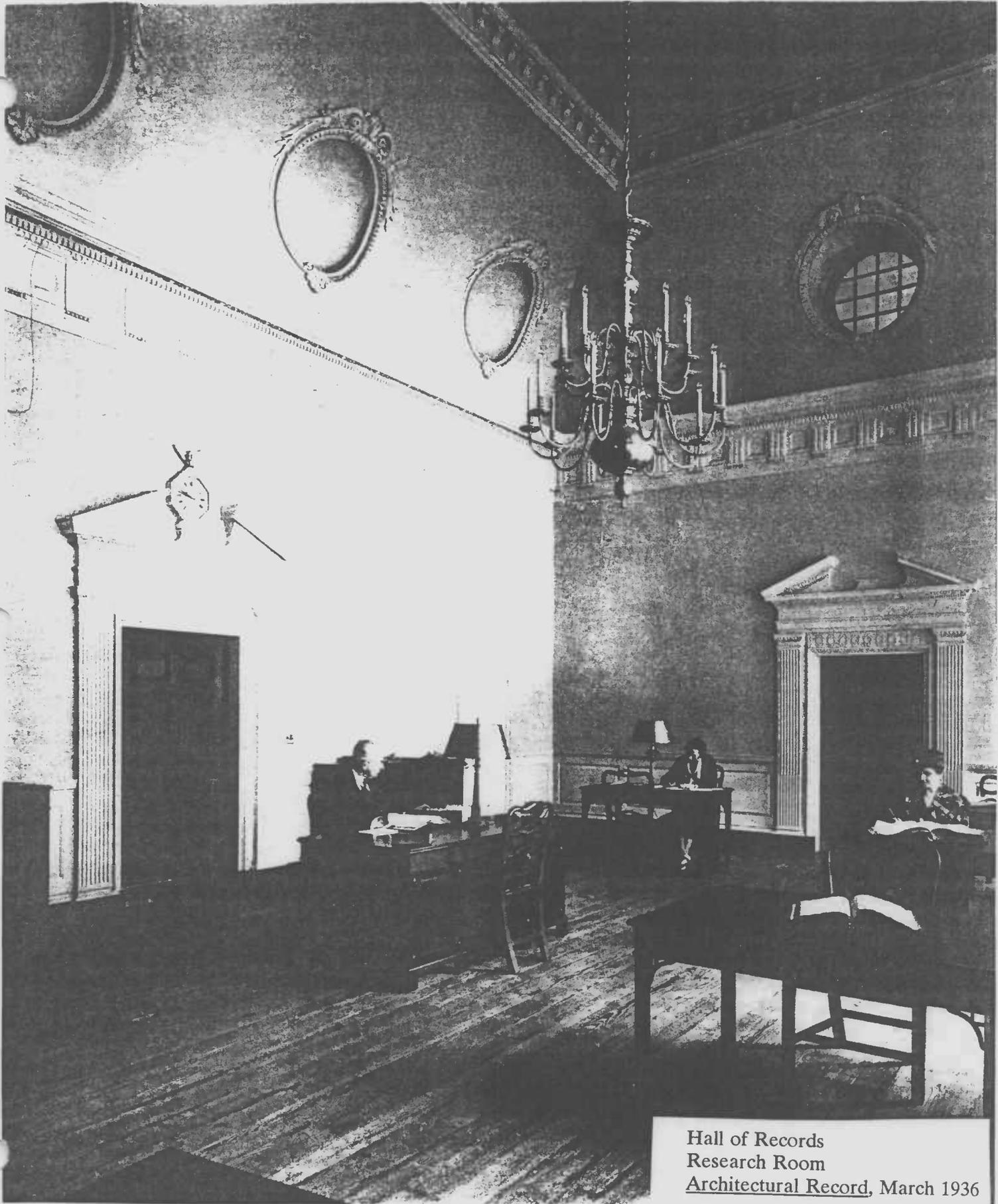
LAURENCE H. FOWLER
ARCHITECT



Opposite: Research room.
Right: Room for extension work.
Below: Memorial vestibule.



Hall of Records
Room for Extension work (above),
and Memorial Vestibule (below)
Architectural Record, March 1936



Hall of Records
Research Room
Architectural Record, March 1936

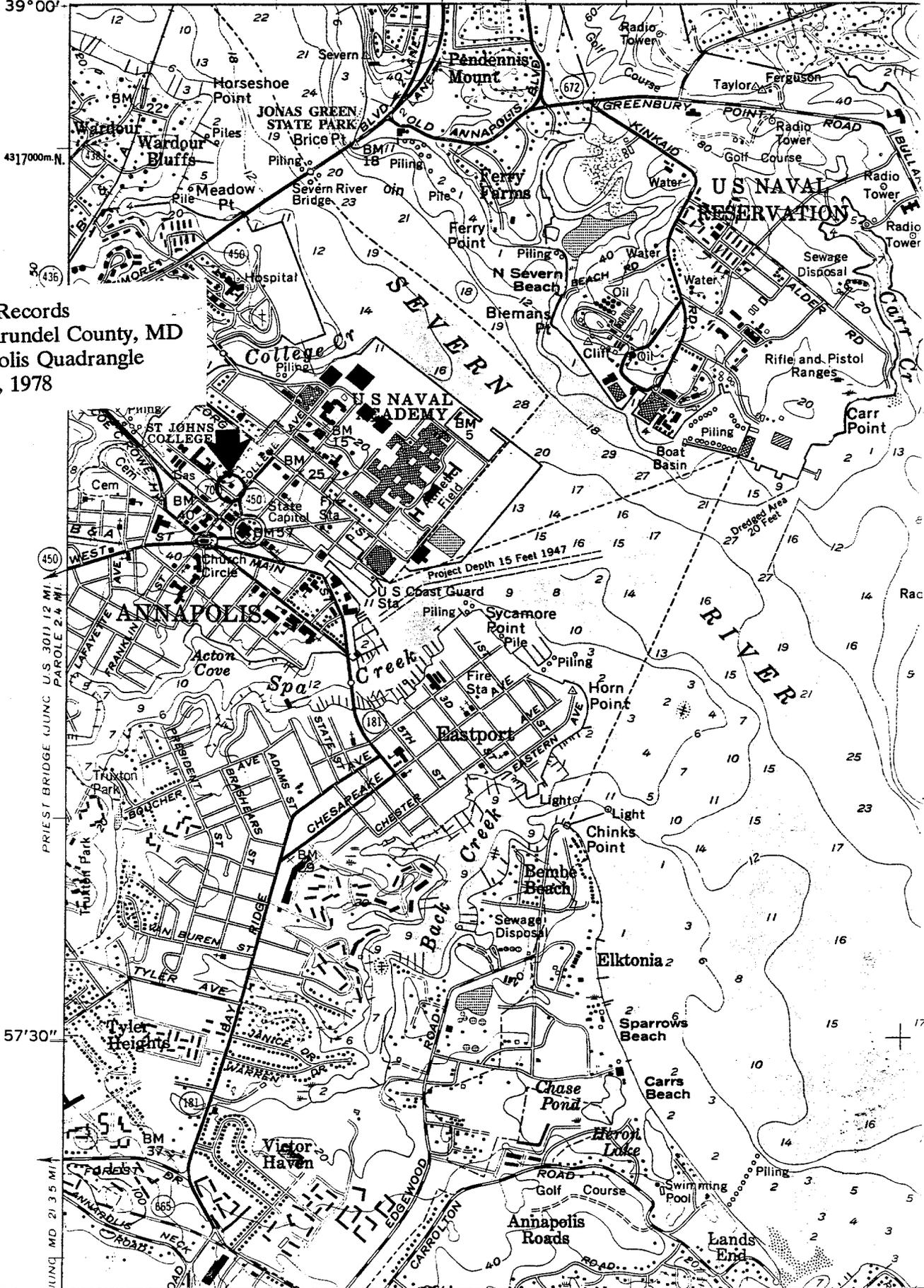
Hall of Records
Architect's Rendering
Circa 1933
Maryland Hall of Records
Manuscript Collection
AA-1586



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

56°21' SE
ROUND BAY

76°30' 39°00' 1.1 MI. TO U.S. 50 & MD. 24 (450) (648) 1.3 MI. TO U.S. 50 373000m.E. 27'30"



AA: 1586 Hall of Records
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, MD
USGS Map Annapolis Quadrangle
1957, Photorevised, 1978

Easement

Survey No. AA-1586

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hall of Records

2. Location

street & number College Avenue not for publication

city, town Annapolis vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: archives

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland, Hall of Records Commission

street & number College and St. John Streets telephone no.: 301-269-3914

city, town Annapolis state and zip code 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 120

street & number P.O. Box 71, Church Circle folio 301-304

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title - Annapolis Historic District Survey

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust & Historic Annapolis, Inc.

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1586

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Hall of Records, built in 1934 by the State of Maryland, and designed by Laurence Hall Fowler, is located on the southeast corner of St. John's College campus in Annapolis. The building is Georgian in appearance with the exception of the flat roofs, which make the building look smaller, in order to harmonize with other buildings on the St. John's campus. Approximately 80 feet square, the Hall of Records is three stories high in the middle, and its end bays are two stories high. The building is made of red brick laid in Flemish bond and was constructed to be fireproof. The sash windows, with flat brick arches above, have 12 over 16 glass panes on the first floor, eight over 12 panes on the second floor, and 4 over 8 panes on the third floor. Brick pilasters on the front and rear elevations articulate the three middle bays, and the cornice is modillioned. The entrance, with its semicircular fanlight, projecting architrave, and flanking pilasters, is the most ornate feature of the exterior. On the interior, Georgian precedent was followed in the hardware, fixtures, color, and decorative elements. Originally located on the first floor were the vestibule, exhibit room, research room, conference room, index hallway, Land Office, Commissioners Office and stair hall. On the second floor were the secretary's office, Assistant Archivist's office, Archivist's office, binding and repair room, and a work room. The extension office was on the third floor, and the photographic and photostatic room, storage space, and the mechanical room were in the basement. The most unusual room is the research room which is two stories high with a coved ceiling pierced by bullseye windows and cartouches. The cornices, broken pediments over the doors, and window moldings are richly ornamented, and a large brass chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The floor is random width pine. Located in the center of the building are the stacks which house the archives. There are six tiers of steel stacks, each tier seven and a half feet high. Electric lighting and air conditioning prevent deterioration of the archives from daylight humidity. Changes to the Hall of Records since 1934 have been minor.

General Description:

The Hall of Records is located on the southeast corner of St. John's College with the front facing north. The building is approximately 80 feet square and is three stories high in the middle and two stories high on the end bays. The architect, Laurence Hall Fowler, described the construction as fireproof, having brick bearing walls, steel girders, and reinforced concrete floor and roof slabs. The brick was handmade and is a reproduction in size, color, and texture of Annapolis colonial brick. The brick was laid with tight

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1686

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

(General Description continued)

joints in Flemish bond. Although the details of the exterior and interior are Georgian in appearance, the roofs are flat. This was intended to make the building harmonize with smaller buildings on the St. John's campus. The steps, coping and finials are of white marble. ~~The cornices, window frames and sash, and entrance door are of white marble.~~ The cornices, window frames and sash, and entrance door are of painted white pine, while parts particularly subject to deterioration, such as window sills, and the capitals and bases of pilasters, are limestone.

Sash windows on the first floor have 12 over 16 glass panes, and windows on the second floor have eight over 12 panes. On the east facade, however, the second story windows in the middle four bays are bullseye windows with three vertical and three horizontal mullions. These windows are set in wood panels. Third story windows have four over eight panes. There are flat brick arches above the windows.

The cornice is modillioned and there is a pulvinated frieze across the middle bays which bears the inscription " - 1634 Hall of Records 1934 - ". The beltcourse consists of four rows of raised brick headers, and the brick watertable becomes limestone across the front middle bays. Brick pilasters define the middle bays on the front and rear elevations.

The approaches to the building are from the east and west through low brick gateposts with marble finials and marble steps. In front of the building is a herringbone pattern brick terrace. Six semicircular marble steps lead to the front entrance. Above a pair of paneled doors is a semicircular fanlight and a projecting architrave ornamented with an egg and dart motif and dentils. Flanking the door are pilasters with scrolls above. This ornamentation around the door was carved in white pine and painted.

In the vestibule, opposite the entrance, is a memorial tablet with the inscription cut in slightly and painted black. The lettering is in the style of the title pages of Jonas and Anne Catherine Green, early Annapolis printers. The chair rail, made of yellow poplar and painted, has a meander pattern and the plaster cornice molding consists of dentils and modillions. The original colors throughout the interior were based on Williamsburg research, although they have been altered. The memorial vestibule, the exhibit room, and the stairhall are all paved with hexagonal red brick and have a black slate base. The exhibit room and stairhall are each connected to the vestibule by a barrel vaulted hallway. In the exhibit room are eight built-in exhibit cases, each flanked by fluted pilasters. This room also has a modillioned plaster cornice. The stairway, on the opposite side of the vestibule, has walnut risers, treads, brackets, chair rail, and balustrade. The wall under the stairs is paneled with yellow poplar and is painted.

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1586

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

(General Description continued)

All interior doors are made of white pine except those identified below as mahogany. The baseboards are birch and all interior woodwork is yellow poplar unless stated otherwise. Interior cornices are all plaster.

Opposite the stairhall is the old Land Office. There is a dentiled pediment over the entry door and full paneling on the north wall. A dumbwaiter is on the right as one enters. The cornice molding is a meander pattern. A paneled double door with a semi-circular fanlight above leads to what used to be the Commissioner's Office. This small room has a modillioned cornice molding and a chair rail. On the west wall are paneled cabinets on either side of an arched niche which houses built-in bookcases. There are additional bookshelves built into the east wall which were added by Fowler in 1940. Windows in this room have a splayed architrave with crossets. The floor is red mastic tile over a wood base, as in the Land Office.

Adjacent to the old Land Office is the index hallway. On both sides of the hallway are maple index boxes with brass name plates and pulls. There is maple paneling beneath the index boxes and a meander pattern maple molding around the ceiling. Fluted pilasters embellish the doorways. The floor is mastic tile over a wood base. The ceiling of the index hallway is approximately seven feet, emphasizing the two-story height of the research room with which it connects.

The research room is the most ornate room in the Hall of Records. It has random width pine floors which, according to Fowler, were old boards that were scraped and treated with hot wax. There is a black slate base around the walls and paneling below the meander pattern chair rail. There is elaborate molding around the doors and windows. Three of the doors are flanked by fluted pilasters and have a broken pediment above. The paneled doors are mahogany with beading around the panels and have been left unpainted. The ceiling is coved. Around the upper part of the coved ceiling is a modillioned molding with a flower and leaf pattern, and below the coving is an elaborate cornice and frieze with metopes and triglyphs, an egg and dart motif, and dentils. A brass chandelier, approximately three feet in diameter, hangs from the ceiling. Piercing the ceiling coving are six bullseye windows, about two feet in diameter, and four cartouches of the same size. The ornamental circular window trim is identical to the cartouche ornamentation, and is made of plaster. Bullseye windows in the second floor study and the Archivist's office, look down on the research room.

The smaller, less elaborate room behind the research room was the conference room. This room also has random width pine floors and a black slate base, but the trim around the windows is plain. In this room is a brass chandelier approximately two feet in diameter. The walls are lined with bookshelves that were added around 1946 at the request of the archivist, Dr. Radoff. They were designed by Fowler, and are the same as the shelves he designed for the Commissioner's Office in 1940.

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1586

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

(General Description continued)

The stacks for storage of the archives are located in the center of the building and are isolated from the rest of the building by fire doors and brick walls. In the stack room are six tiers of steel stacks, each tier seven and a half feet high with vertical connection provided by stairs and an electric booklift. There are no windows in the stacks, only electric light and air conditioning to prevent deterioration of the archives from daylight and humidity. The original mechanical system was replaced in 1967, however.

On the second floor are the offices of the Archivist and his staff. Connecting the stair hall and what was originally the secretary's office is a small passage with a low vaulted ceiling. The elevator is on one side and the third floor stairs are opposite. The west wall of the secretary's office is paneled below and above the chair rail. The adjoining office built for the Assistant Archivist, has the same paneling on the west and east walls, and also has the same cornice molding.

Another low vaulted passage connects the Assistant Archivist's office to the Archivist's office. Entry to the Archivist's office is through paneled double doors. There is full paneling on all four walls of the Archivist's room. On the south wall are built-in shelves under the bullseye window, and built-in cabinets on either side of the window. The cornice molding is similar, but more ornate, than the other two offices. The floor in these three offices is random width pine.

Also located on the second floor is the old repair and binding room. The floor in this room is mastic tile over a wood base, and the room is ornamented only by a chair rail and cornice molding. The doors are all six panel doors.

Above the conference room, connected by a back stairway, is the study. This room has a bullseye window overlooking the research room and is opposite the Archivist's office. A chair rail and cornice are the only ornamentation.

On the third floor is what was known as the extension office. The room has random width pine floors and the ceiling is coved. There is a chair rail, cornice, and molding around the upper part of the coved ceiling. On the west wall is an alcove where a window is located. In this alcove there are beaded horizontal boards below the chair rail and vertical beaded boards above. There is a paneled ceiling above and storage closets on either side. The same beaded boards are used on the east end of the room in a small recess where the elevator, a window, and another closet are located. The stairs between the second and third floors have yellow pine treads and the stair rail has a lattice pattern with vertical and horizontal members made of birch.

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1586

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

(General Description continued)

The basement is reached from the main stair hall. These stairs also have yellow pine treads. The stair rail has a diagonal lattice pattern and is made of birch. The hall at the foot of the stairs is paved with red brick in a herringbone pattern. There is beaded board below the chair rail and the cornice is the same as in the secretary's and Assistant Archivist's offices. To the west of this hall was an unassigned room, which is connected by a passage with a barrel vaulted ceiling. This room has a coved ceiling and a brick floor and beyond it are the storage and mechanical rooms. South of the basement stair hall is the photographic and photostatic room, which is functional in appearance with exposed pipes overhead and a tile floor.

Alterations to the Hall of Records since 1934 have been minor and include the addition of handicapped access to the basement, the removal of the chandelier from the vestibule, changes in the original paint colors, and updating of the mechanical system. Much of the original furniture, which was a replica of 18th century furniture is still in use in the Hall of Records.

3. Significance

Survey No. AA-1386

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1934 Builder/Architect Laurence Hall Fowler

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D

and/or Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance:

The Hall of Records was built in 1934 by the State of Maryland to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Maryland. Although in Europe separate archives buildings were not unusual, state archives at that time were almost always housed in parts of buildings designed for the accomodation of state libraries, historical societies or the courts. The Hall of Records was the first state archives building in this country constructed specifically for that purpose. Prior to that time the archives of Maryland had been scattered in various locations with no central agency responsible for their care. The architect of the Hall of Records, Laurence Hall Fowler, did extensive research on both American and European archives before designing this building. He consulted the leading authorities on archival economy and the elements which they agreed were fundamental were incorporated in the building. The archives were housed in fire-proof steel stacks with electric lighting and air conditioning to prevent deterioration from daylight and moisture. Although the stack room represented the most modern means of archival preservation, a Georgian appearance was chosen for the building. The Hall of Records was one of the last successful attempts to carry Maryland colonial architecture into the 20th century.

History and Support:

The early public records of Maryland were moved from St. Mary's City to Annapolis in the last decade of the 17th century when the capitol was relocated. In 1716, a special committee copied many of the records which were badly deteriorated, but by the time of the Revolution the condition of the public records was generally poor. In 1834 an effort was made to survey all records in various State offices, list them, and recommend ways of improving the situation. Some copying of records was undertaken, but the records continued to deteriorate and many were lost. In 1882 the General Assembly

1 #M2203, Laurence Hall Fowler Architectural Collection, Vol I, A, p. 48 (Hall of Records)

3. Significance

Survey No. AA-1586

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(History and Support continued)

ordered all early records from Colonial to Revolutionary periods, transferred to the vaults of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. The Historical Society became at that time the archival agency of the State, although the archives were actually scattered in many locations. The Land Office was the depository for early land records and for the records of the colonial Probate Court, while the Court of Appeals held its own early records and most of those of the defunct Provincial Court and General Court. County records remained in the county seats, and were for the most part poorly housed. Fires destroyed most of the early records in Dorchester, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties. The General Assembly appointed a Public Records Commission in 1904 to survey all state records and make recommendations for their care, but it was a quarter of a century later before anything further was done to establish a central agency. In 1928, Governor Albert Ritchie appointed a Tercentenary Commission to prepare for the celebration of the founding of Maryland in 1934. The Commission adopted the idea of a Hall of Records. The Land Office, The Maryland Historical Society, and some county officers, however, were reluctant to relinquish their rights as archival agents for the state.

Governor Ritchie asked Judge Bond to form a committee to estimate the quantity of records which would be housed in the proposed Hall of Records, the size of the building needed, and the cost. Judge Bond reported that space would have to be provided for 5,000 bound volumes and that an equal amount of space would be needed for unbound material. He proposed a steel stack space of 60 by 40 feet in an area 25 feet high, which would include a margin space for accumulation over the next 25 years. Space would also have to be provided for a reading room, an exhibition room, two offices, a repair room, a bindery, a photostat room, a darkroom, washrooms, and passages. It was determined that 2 floors and a basement, each 60 by 60 in area and 15 feet high would suffice. The cost was estimated to be \$250,000. Governor Ritchie recommended \$50,000 less than this to the Legislature.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-1586

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(History and Support continued)

The Tercentenary Commission was given power to procure a site for the Hall of Records. A site on St. John's campus, offered by the college, was eventually chosen. The college deeded the land with the stipulation that the building be in harmony with the other buildings on the St. John's. It was also agreed that the Hall of Records would face the campus rather than the street. It was to conform to other buildings on the quadrangle as much as possible.

The Board of Public Works did not approve the idea of a contest of architects suggested by the commission, but approved the selection of Laurence Hall Fowler as the architect. Fowler (1877-1971), a native Baltimorean, was educated at Johns Hopkins University and Columbia University. Fowler designed 60 residences during his lifetime, many of them in Guilford, Homeland, and Roland Park. He also designed the War Memorial in City Hall Plaza, Baltimore which won a local competition. Fowler is best known, however, for his large collection of rare and fine architectural books which he left to Johns Hopkins University. The collection is housed in the John York Garrett Library (designed by Fowler) at Evergreen House, 4545 N. Charles Street, Baltimore.

Fowler, before designing the Hall of Records, did extensive research. He wrote letters to the New York Public Library, Yale University, Connecticut Library, in Hartford, and to Indiana State Library requesting to see their archives facilities. He also studied drawings of European archives. Although in European countries, separate archives buildings were common, archives in the United States were almost always housed in parts of public buildings designed primarily for the accomodation of state libraries, historical societies or the courts. The Maryland Hall of Records was the first state archive building in this country constructed specifically for that purpose. The leading authorities on archival economy were consulted by Fowler and those elements which they agreed upon as fundamental were incorporated in the building.

There was a unanimity of opinion among the experts that the most effective method of caring for public documents, archives,

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-158.6

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(History and Support continued)

and historical manuscripts was by centralizing them in one building under one administration. For this purpose a self-contained and fireproof stack room was provided, centrally located to the administrative offices and the public reading or research room. The stack room was equipped with six tiers of steel stacks, each tier about 7½ feet high, connected to the adjoining tiers by stairs and an electric booklift. The stack room was lighted entirely by electric light and air conditioned to prevent deterioration of the archives from daylight and moisture.

Although the stack room was completely modern, Fowler said that there were a number of reasons why he felt a "colonial" appearance was appropriate for the building. The building commemorated the very beginning of Maryland's colonial history, it was part of a group of buildings around the campus of Maryland's oldest college, and it was located in a town noted for its particularly fine examples of colonial architecture.

Fowler said that it was difficult, however, to reconcile the 20th century requirements with 18th century appearance. A problem presented by the site was that the building had to be large enough to meet the minimum needs of the program, but still appear appropriate in scale in relation to other less extensive structures on the college campus. This necessity to appear as small as possible led to the compact arrangement of the interior, the broken mass of the exterior, and the use of flat roofs.

Letters were written to the owners of White Hall, Brice House, and the Hammond-Harwood House requesting permission for Fowler to visit them and study details, but the Hall of Records does not bear a strong resemblance to any one of these Annapolis houses. In concept it is the same, however, and represents the best of Georgian design. The Hall of Records was one of the last successful attempts to carry Maryland colonial architecture into the 20th century. It has a balance of proportion, scale, and detail which is often lacking in the neo-colonial buildings of the 1940's and 1950's.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-1586

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(History and Support continued)

The Hall of Records is also noteworthy, however, because it functions well as an archives building. The spaces were well designed to meet their purposes. It is only because of the tremendous increase in the volume of records since 1934, that the State of Maryland is once again building a new Hall of Records, this time to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the founding of Maryland.

Bibliography

Books

Gondos, Victor, Jr., A.I. A. American Archival Architecture, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964.

Fosner, Ernst. American State Archives, reprinted from The Bulletin of the American Institute of Architects, Sept. 1947.

The Fowler Architectural Collection of the Johns Hopkins University, catalog compiled by Laurence Hall Fowler and Eliabeth Baer, Balto., The Evergreen House Foundation, 1961.

Magazines

Architectural Record, March 1936, pp. 194-197.

Pamphlets

"First to Fourth Annual Reports of the Archivist of the Hall of Records", State of Maryland, for the Fiscal Years October 1, 1935 through September 30, 1939.

Microfilm

#M2203, Laurence Hall Fowler Architectural Collection, Vol. I-III, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

#M2204, Laurence Hall Fowler Architectural Collection, Vol. IV-VI, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

#M2205, Laurence Hall Fowler Architectural Collection, Vol. VII, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Easement

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 21 STATE CIRCLE
 SHAW HOUSE
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: AA 1586
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE: Research Library
ORIGINAL USE: Research Library
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: Lawrence Hall Fowler
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Poor: ()
THEME:
STYLE: Georgian Revival
DATE BUILT: 1934

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: St. John's Campus
COMMON NAME: Maryland Hall of Records
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: OFF Map 31 Par 24
OWNER: State of Maryland
ADDRESS: St. John's St. Annapolis, MD 21401
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (X) No () Restricted ()
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local () State (✓) National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
 Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone () Brick (X) Concrete () Concrete Block ()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (X) Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap ()
 Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()
 Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer () Asbestos Shingle ()
 Bonding Pattern: _____ Other: _____
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel (X) Concrete ()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()
 Built Up (X) Rolled () Tile () Other: _____
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds () Ells ()
 Wings () Other: Projecting Pavillion

Roof Style: Gable () Hip () Shed () Flat (X) Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
 Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet () With False Front ()
 Other: _____

Number of Stories: 2 + 3
 Number of Bays: 5 x 6
 Approximate Dimensions: 90 x 80
 Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat (X) Zoning () Roads () Development () Deterioration () Alteration () Other: _____
--

LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive () Negative () Mixed () Other: _____

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Three story section flanked by two story wings, with simple modillion band at third level, swelling across shallow pilaster strips, and a full entablature at the projecting three bay entrance pavillion, with modillion cornice, flat frieze with dentils and streped architrave. Pilaster strips at pavillion have Doric caps and bases. All windows with splayed brick arches, wound arched door with fan and double leaf door enclosed with Classic Revival bracketed hood. Belt course at second floor continues at wings, where there is a modillioned cornice.

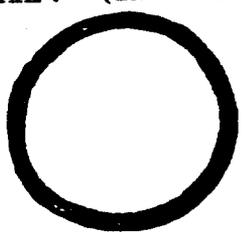
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Good example of Classic Revival public building, sited with reference to Woodward Hall across the campus, important to the character and design of the campus.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
- Moderately Built Up()Densely-Built Up()
- Residential()Commercial()
- Agricultural()Industrial()
- Roadside Strip Development()
- Other:

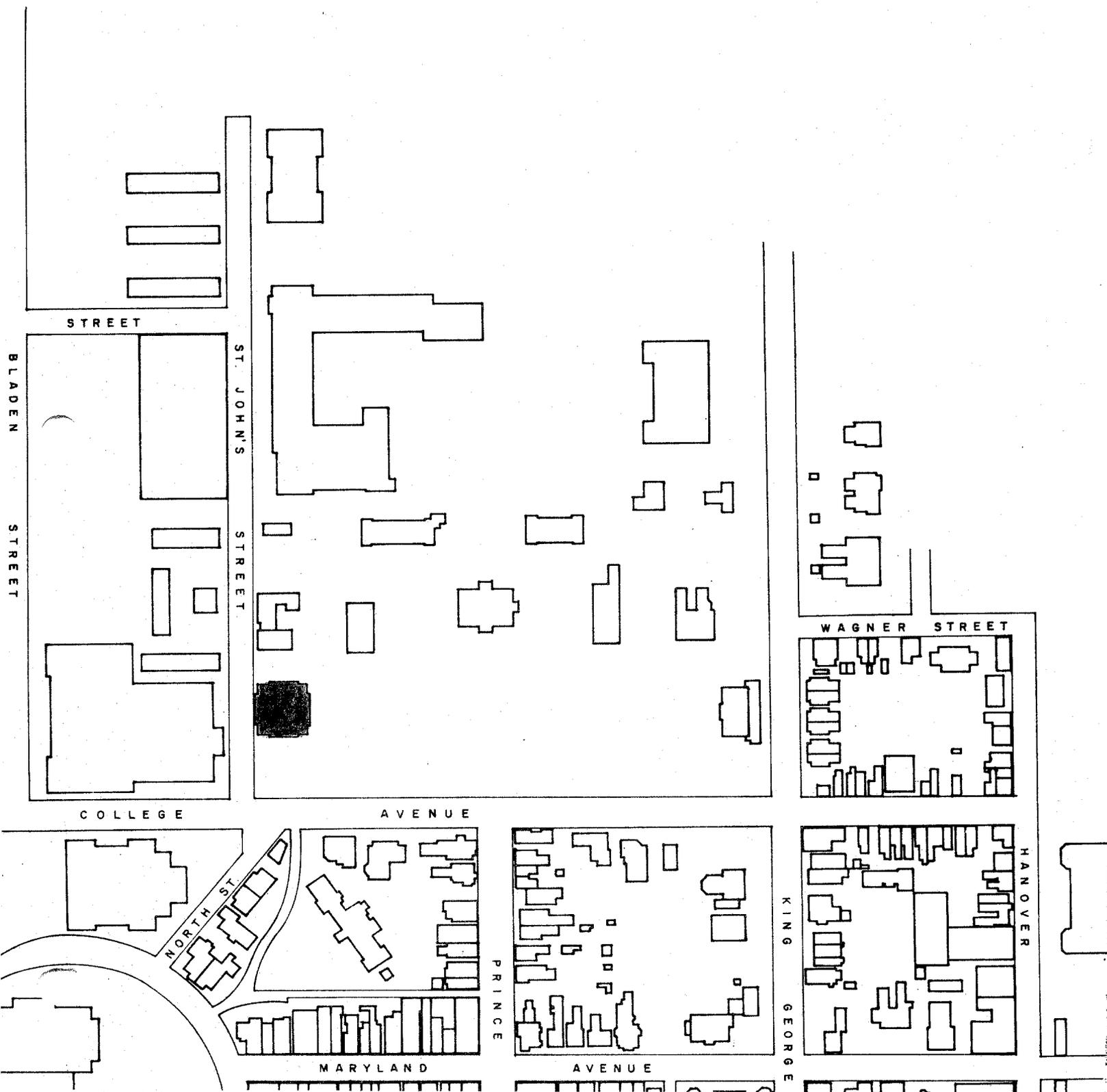
RECORDED BY: Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION: Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED: Aug. 1983



AA 1586
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.





State of Maryland Hall of
Records/ St. John's

AA 1586

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SE Elevation/camera facing NW



State of Maryland Hall of
Records/St. John's

AA 1586

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SE Elevation/camera facing NW