CITY HALL SPLENDOR—Some of the newly renovated suites and salons of City Hall are shown as the AFRO was taken on a guided tour of the building last week. At left is the fabulous Board of Estimates Room. Center is the mayor's Ceremonial Office and right is the mayor's Cabinet Room.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

Renovated City Hall is expected to win awards

by Paul Evans

There is still a huge amount of work to be done at the renovated City Hall. Nearly everyone who will be occupying the building will be moving in from temporary sites scattered around downtown.

The flooring at the entrance halls needs to be laid. The carpeting is still rolled against the walls cylinder upon cylinder.

But there is near universal agreement that it certainly doesn't look like the same building employes and bureau heads occupied 18 months ago. At City Hall things are looking up.

Mayor Schaefer, is confident, as is this reporter who was given a tour from top-to-bottom recently, the building is sure to win awards for architectural originality.

The final cost for the restoration is nearly $10 million.

The basic theme is to present a blend of restored and renovated areas, placing Victorian elegance side by side with a contemporary working environment.

The building is 101 years old.

It was designed by well-known local architect George Frederick and completed and dedicated on Oct. 25, 1875.

At that time Frederick had been locally acclaimed for his designs of other city structures as churches.

City Hall was patterned after French Second and Third Republic buildings as well as the Boston City Hall and the U. S. Capitol. It was completed during the Civil War and post-bellum periods.

The engineer for the Baltimore dome, Wendell Bowman, was also the engineer for the Capitol.

It is thought that the original City Hall had but three floors with a fourth floor added later.

The city had expected that the renovation would have been completed enough for tourist inspection for the July 4 holiday, but the target was missed.

Now, it is expeteed the entire building will be occupied and in full operation well before the end of the year.

Where there were four floors before renovation, now there are seven floors.

Where there were 18 agencies occupying the building, now there will be 20 agencies.

Floor space has been increased from 50,000 square feet to 100,000 square feet.

* * *

The tour of the restored structure begins on the second floor, not far from the Rotunda. The Board of Estimates Room is first.

The carpeting is bright green. Rosettes which used to hang from the ceiling as bases for the old gas lighting, later changed to electric fixtures, adorn the entrance to the horizontally spacious suite.

In this chamber the executive body of the city government meets every Wednesday morning on finance matters.

The mayor, president of the City Council and the comptroller are the elected officials on the board. The city solicitor and the Director of Public Works, by City Charter, are the other two members. Sessions are chaired by the Council President.

In this room can be seen many of the formal portraits of past mayors of the city. There is also seating for the public that wish to view board sessions.

Also mounted at the doorway will be brass eagle claws which were part of the railings for the original circular stairway.

Directly off the board room are the offices of Comptroller Hyman Pressman and his aides.

In the finance work area, the renovation added more than two floors of usable space. This area was originally part of a ballroom. Much of the original woodwork has been restored.

* * *

Down the hall, from the finance area is the Mayor's Office.

These are his ceremonial and working offices.

The visitor may approach this suite by taking the elevator to the second floor and making a right turn.

The first person you meet is Officer Joseph R. Goldburn of the Police Department. He is the guard who is always on duty in the reception area. Next, in the broad, carpeted expanse, you will see a pleasant-faced lady, Mrs. Rose Marie Bleckert, who is the Mayor's Receptionist.

The artwork in the mayor's private office and the ceremonial room, is on loan from local museums.

The cermonial room has been restored to the building's original 19th century elegance.

The brass doorknobs embossed with the City Seal are on various doors throughout the building.

The ceremonial room's huge chandeliers, once gas lit, have been restored by cleaning and polishing. They are considered almost priceless.

The rug on the room's floor has been a source of controversy.

The mayor said the room had to have a rug which would fit with the 19th century decor.

The rug which fit that description cost $25,000. It has designs of a floral nature, sort of wheat-colored with maroon trimmings or borders.

The ceremonial room boasts of elaborate restored woodwork, an antique

(Continued on Page 31)

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The alley between Fulton Ave. and Mount St. looks like this on one side of the street. There is equally as much debris in the alley across the street from this. Persons living on the corner house are responsible for cleaning up this mess. They should look through these bags to find mail telling who is throwing this junk in the streets. These pictures were taken after the trash collectors had been there.

(Photo by Arnetta Lottier)

(Photo by Arnetta Lottier)

Dogs running in packs like these shown at Arlington and Riggs Aves. are a menace to the public. If you have dogs running through your neighborhood, call 396-2736.

Yards behind 925, 927, 931, 933, N. Stricker St. all vacant and 929, occupied, look like this with old mattresses and any other junk you can think of. Neighbors should call 396-4179 to have this mess cleared away.

(Photo by Arnetta Lottier)

Blocks on the move

By Arnetta Lottier

Last week the AFRO visited the Youth Diversion Corp meeting at their headquarters in the 1300 blk W. Baltimore St.

This group of youngsters work in the Poopleton area on a voluntary basis, cleaning various blocks. They are planning a mass clean-up next Sat., Nov. 27, in the areas between Fulton Ave.-Payson St.; Fayette and Penrose Sts. Lunch will be served at Bon Secours Hospital between 12 and 1 p.m.

Called the Super Rat Fighters Club, they will be ringing door bells in these areas on Tues., Nov. 23, telling about the mass clean up. This is to be the biggest clean up in the southwest area of Baltimore. Fifty to 75 youngsters are expected to take part in this activity.

At each meeting, members are asked to give their ideas of how to make a better Baltimore. The best idea at this meeting was all houses in every block should have trash cans to put their refuse in to keep alleys clean.

One of the group told Kenneth Strong, director, they had already started cleaning the 1600 blk. W. Lexington St. The group includes: Robert Brown, Gardnell Wynn, Stevie Wynn, Wanda Mack and Juanita Brown.

The group is inviting Housing and Community Development to their meeting. They are very concerned about the vacant houses in the area.

If any neighbors in the area have warm gloves for these youngsters, it would be nice to give them when the youngsters come in your block. It could be pretty cold out there next Saturday. Orchids to these youngsters who are determined to rid the city of rats.

BEWARE
T.O.Y.'s is not connected with AFRO's Mrs. Santa Program
Call 728-8200 if in doubt.

AFRO Clean Block gets results

In the October 30 issue of the Friday AFRO, on the AFRO Clean Block page, there were pictures of yards in the 1500 blk. of Woodyear St., showing debris that had been there for aime time. There was also a pictude of 1422 W. Lafayetet Ave., where the sides were open. All of these houses are city owned.

Following, is a letter of reply from Department of Housing and Communication Development:

Dear Mrs. Lottier:

By now you have probably received correspondence from Mr. Joseph Goldstein, Assistant Director for property management, stating that priority work orders have been initiated to remove trash and debris at 1309, 1311 and 1317 N. Woodyear Street. Our most recent inspection reveals that 1311 and 1317 are already clean and boarded, but that corrective action still remains to be taken on 1309, 1313, 1315 and 1319. Please be assured that actions have already been initiated to clean and board the remainder of the block.

Also mentioned as problem areas in your article are 1422 W. Lafayette Avenue and the alley behind 900 N. Stricker Street. Although cleaning alleys is not a direct responsibility of the Department of Housing, we have referred this problem to Ms. Herdit of Customer Services, telephone 539-5151. A work order to close 1422 W. Lafayette Avenue was issued September 29, 1976 to clean it out and close all openings. This work has been completed. This property will be rehabilitated by the Department and sold to a private owner.

All of these properties are on a regular inspection schedule to insure that they remain clean and boarded. The inspections are made under the supervision of Lonnie Perry, 1313 Druid Hill Avenue, telephone 396-0414. Additionally, we are currently studying the structures on Wood-yeat Street in order to reach a more permanent solution to these nuisances, either through demolition or rehabilitation.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. I know that the residents of Baltimore City neighborhoods greatly appreciate your efforts on their behalf.

Clean Block Meeting

The steering committee of the year-round AFRO Clean Block Campaign met this week at the McCulloh Homes.

Members stated their concern about the number of calls they must make downtown trying to get help with sanitation, health and animal problems. Most agreed nothing is done after all of their efforts.

They are becoming very discouraged when they clean up alleys, yards, and streets and then try to get help in having trash picked up. Another problem is discouraging neighbors from throwing trash in alleys. Also, sanitation workers drop trash in alleys when they collect.

The committee agreed they would like to have a meeting with Edward J. Moore, Chief of Sanitation, his four district supervisors and Mayor William D. Schaefer to iron out some of these problems.

If you are having problems like the above, here are the numbers you should all.

Baltimore City Health Department, Bureau of Rodent and Insect Control,

District Office

Northwest District — Pimlico Multi-Purpose Center, 3319 W. Belvedere Avenue (21215), District Supervisor — William Bowers 396-0224, 0223

Southwest District — South Baltimore Multi-Purpose Center, 1211 Wall Street (21230) District Supervisor — Henry Caplan, 396-4542.

Southeast District — 111 N. Calvert Street (21202), District Supervisor — John Gaskins, 396-1386

Northeast District — 4324 York Road, District Supervisor, Henry Lorstein; 396-6229

Rat Eradication District and Special Projects): Eastern Health District Building, 2nd Floor, 709 E. Eager Street (21202) Supervisor — Reginald Scriber, 396-4690

Director of Bureau of Animal Control — Dr. David R. Berzon, 396-0339

William Henderson — Animal Shelter, 225 N. Calverton Road, 396-6218

Jeff Kinckle — 709 E. Eager Street, Animal Complaints, 396-3736

Simon Morrisin—709 E. Eager Street, Animal Complaints, 396-3736

Roberta Shields — 709 E. Eager Street, Animal Bites, 396-3736

Mr. Kinckle takes care of the west side of Charles Street area.

Mr. Morrison takes care of the east side of Charles Street area.

Sanitation Department

Edward J. Moore, Sanitation Chief, 396-4515

Northwest district, Wesley Thomas, 396-6070

Northeast district, Charles Ferguson, 396-8181

Eastern district, Joel Becker, 396-8183

Western district, Frank Salisbury, 396-3367

Self Help Housing, 329 E. North Ave., 685-4141

Housing and Community Development (Neighborhood vacant Houses / Devap.)

Charles Noon, Director, 396-4131

Derwin Keyser, 396-4179

Central complaint, 396-4176

Fire Hazards

Lt. Bernard Williams, 396-2411

Police Community Relations, 396-3069

Park Forrestry, 396-6106

When you call in a complaint, be sure to give the following information: number of vacant house; truck number; time truck was there; color of truck. Also get the name of person you are complaining to.

Coppin students need help

Sponsors are needed for two Coppin State College students, who want to help the retarded by participating in a dance marathon given by the Md. Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.

A dancing couple can be sponsored by a school, organization, business or on an individual basis.

Dance marathon is an event in which couples try to dance for the duration of the contest and also vie with each other in collecting money for the MARC.

There will be a first, second and third place winning couple. To be a winner, the couples must survive the required hours. The first, second and third place winners will be determined by those remaining couples who have raised the most money.

The winning couples are eligible to compete in the grand finals, Friday to Sunday Dec. 3-5 at Towson State University and have the opportunity to win the grand prize which is $1,000, first prize; $500, second prize $250, third prize.

Preliminaries for the dance marathon will be Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 18 and 19, starting at 8 a.m.

Anyone willing to help this Coppin couple can reach them at Coppin, 383-4441 or in the evening 624-3848. The couple's names are Michelle Bright and Sian Meragnesi.

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