

THE STATE HOUSE.

The first State House built at Annapolis was erected in 1696. It was burnt down in 1704.

The second State House was erected in 1704. This remained until 1772, when it was pulled down to make room for the present edifice.

The building of this, the third State House, on the same site of the two preceding ones, was commenced in 1772, but the dome was not finished until after the Revolution.

This building is greatly admired for its fine architectural proportions, its commanding site and lofty dome, but its chief attraction is its historic associations; in it and on its site the freemen of Maryland have always maintained their rights; here the Father of his Country returned his military commission to his countrymen; here the treaty of peace with Great Britain, that made us thirteen free and independent colonies was ratified; and here, tradition tells, the first conference of States was held that led to the adoption of the Constitution and the formation of a more perfect union of States.

MARYLAND STATE FLAG.

The flag of the State bears the escutcheon of the great seal—the Calvert and Crossland arms quartered. This device seems to have been adopted by common consent, as there is no record of the formal adoption of any design as the official flag of the State. That the colony had a distinct flag or standard we know. The first recorded instance of the use of a Maryland flag occurs in Leonard Calvert's report of the reduction of Kent Island (February, 1638), in which he says that he and his force marched with Baltimore's banner displayed. At the battle of the Severn, in 1655, where the supporters of the proprietary government, under William Stone, the Governor, were defeated by the Parliamentary party, under Captain William Fuller, Stone's forces marched under the flag of Maryland, borne by William Nugent, "standard bearer of the Province," while Fuller's party displayed the flag of the Commonwealth, charged with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. It is also said that a Maryland flag was carried by the Marylanders who accompanied Braddock's expedition against Fort Du Quesne in 1756.