

## STATE HOUSE.

Nothing in the records show that the State House has a record title to the ground on which the State House stands, except a plat hereinafter referred to. The records have been carefully examined from 1694, when they and the seat of government were moved from St. Mary's county to Annapolis, and when Commissioners were appointed for building the first State House, down to within the last thirty years.

The seat of government was moved from St. Mary's to Annapolis in 1694. During that same year Major John Hammond; Major Dorsey, Messrs. John Bennett and John Dorsey, Andrew Norwood, Philip Howard, James Saunders and Nicholas Greenberry were appointed Commissioners to survey and lay out the town of Annapolis into streets and lanes, and also a town common for pasture, to be fenced at the public expense. At the same time they were authorized to have a plat of the town made, which was made by Richard Beard. A copy of this plat is in the Land Office at Annapolis, and on it the State House Circle is laid out.

It has been well authenticated that the records from 1657 to 1683 were lost during their removal from St. Mary's to Annapolis; and that the first Courthouse was burned in 1706, with all the records therein. So that while no record title can be found, there is no doubt of the fact that the Colony had a title to the property, and that it came down to the State from Colonial times, for the reason that the State House Circle is recognized on the plat aforesaid; but owing to the destruction of the records, in what form it was transferred can not be ascertained. Its value is about \$800,000.

## CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS' HOME.

A very interesting fact developed in the examination of the records to ascertain by what title the State held the property at Pikesville, now known as the Confederate Soldiers' Home. I was not able to find any reference to said title in the Land Office, at Annapolis, nor in the Land Records of Baltimore county, but ascertained that there had been certain legislation both of Congress and by the Maryland Legislature touching the matter, as follows: I found by the Act