

in 1967. Recently, a comprehensive plan designed to meet the future space needs of the State and enhance the general appearance of the areas where the buildings will be located has been prepared.

A new building for the two courts of appeal and State Library, another which houses the Department of Natural Resources, a Central Services Building and a barracks for the State Police were completed in 1972. The present Treasury Building has been converted into a Senate Office Building while a new building is under construction for offices for members of the House of Delegates. Still in the planning stages are a structure housing the ancillary agencies of the Legislature and an annex to the Hall of Records Building.

In Baltimore, a complex of three new State office buildings was completed in 1960: one for the State Roads Commission, another for the Department of Employment Security, while a third brought together a number of State agencies that had formerly rented space in various areas of the City. Future planning calls for an innovative State governmental center that will not merely provide office and parking space for State agencies and their employees, but will also be "an integral part of the community in which it stands" and have "life after working hours because it contains facilities for shopping and amusement within its boundaries, so that it will attract activities in the evening." Construction has already begun on a building that will include a three-level parking area and a total of 350,000 square feet of office space.

The Department of Motor Vehicles, now the Motor Vehicles Administration, which was formerly located in Baltimore moved into a newly-constructed Headquarters Building near Glen Burnie in 1962.

History and Culture

Apart from the State buildings, the past decade has witnessed remarkable changes in the face of Baltimore. Charles Center, a 32-acre urban renewal project, has revitalized the heart of the business district, artistically as well as economically. Nearby is the Baltimore Civic Center erected in 1962. It is being used mainly as a sports arena, although it can accommodate such wide-ranging cultural activities as symphony concerts, and personal appearances of "The Beatles." In the same block is the Morris Mechanic Theatre, opened in 1967. Its imaginative use of rough-surfaced concrete has attracted wide attention.