

the edge; and on this platform the judges sat before small tables. Men still living in Annapolis recall seeing on the platform a row of mahogany tables of the same design as those long used by Senators and Delegates in the legislative chambers, some of which are in existence, one in the keeping of the present court. The two middle windows behind the judges were screened by Venetian blinds. There were, of course, tables and chairs for counsel facing the judges, and seats for visitors about the room. In the northwest wall of the room, opposite the judges, there was a large fire place, so large that it was fed with logs of the full length of four feet; and that was the means of heating during the first half of the century. The fireplace is thought to have been of the same design as those in the other large rooms of the building, that in the old Senate Chamber and that in the Governor's rooms. The expense accounts of the court clerks of the time are largely filled with items of purchases of firewood.

In June 1831, an order was passed on the Eastern Shore for raising the floor two feet and erecting a rail in the room used there, but whether this means that the court had been using a room without those features, or had moved to new quarters, is not known. A remark by William Wirt,<sup>19</sup> when ladies attended to hear an argument of his before the Court of Appeals at Easton in 1830, that it was the first time a lady had ever been in the court room for her own pleasure, seems to indicate that the argument was made in the ordinary trial court room.

19. John P. Kennedy, *Life of William Wirt*, II, 304.