

The first term of court after the proceedings in 1694, and after the "April Court next," designated in the order of the Council on October 17, 1694, was the May Term, 1695; and, for that there assembled in Annapolis the new capital, on May 16, 1695, His Excellency Francis Nicholson, Col. George Robotham, Thomas Tench, Esq., Col. Charles Hutchins, and Col. David Brown. No business was transacted on that day, but on the next, May 17, 1695, with a larger court present, Henry Denton was formally sworn in as clerk, and the first case was taken up.

In what building the court held this first session, has not been learned. The first session of the General Assembly in Annapolis, in 1695, seems to have been held in the house of Major Edward Dorsey, on Prince George Street,¹³ and there is, perhaps, some likelihood that the judicial session of the Council was held in the same house; but other houses were used for the public business. A Court of Delegates was held on October 12, 1695, in the house of Mrs. Mary Van Swearingen; and on October 21 and 22, 1697, the sessions of the Court of Appeals were held in the house of the honorable Sir Thomas Lawrence, Bart, Secretary—so say the minutes. The small brick building still standing on the eastern slope of the State House Circle appears to have been used at times as a council chamber until the first State House was finished in 1697. And that State House, or "Stadt House", had a great room below stairs for courts and assemblies to sit in; one of two rooms on the left in the upper

13. Richardson, *Side Lights on Maryland History*, II, 89.
Ridgely, *Annals of Annapolis*, 106.