

of the Hall of Records had been accepted by the Board of Governors of the St. John's College who had deeded a plot of ground on their campus with the condition that the architect's design be in harmony with the other buildings of the college. In February of the next year, the year of the Tercentenary, it was announced that contracts for the construction of the building had been awarded.

The Board of Public Works, which had in fact taken over the business of building the Hall of Records, was specifically vested with this authority by the Legislature of 1933 which instructed this body to acquire by purchase or condemnation a suitable site in Annapolis for this purpose (Acts 1933, Ch. 344). On February 21, 1934, a deed was executed between the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College and the State of Maryland granting to the State the site on which the Hall of Records now stands for "ten dollars and other good and valuable considerations." (Recorded March 5, 1934 in *Liber F.S.R. No. 120*, folio 301, *Land Records of Anne Arundel County*). On March 7, 1934 the first spadeful of earth was turned by State Senator Ridgely P. Melvin of Anne Arundel County who had sponsored the bill providing for the Hall of Records. The building was completed one year later and it was occupied by the Land Office in June 1935 and by the Hall of Records Commission on October 1, 1935.

When the building was near completion the Legislature of 1935 passed an Act providing for the governing of the Hall of Records along the lines which had previously been outlined to Governor Ritchie by Judge Bond and his colleagues (Acts 1935, Ch. 18).

### BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

By agreement with the Board of Visitors and Governors of the St. John's College the Hall of Records was designed to face on the campus of the College rather than on the street. The architect was further required to plan the building to conform as much as possible with the other buildings of the quadrangle. Comment of the architect on this point is interesting: "The minimum requirements for the Hall of Records called for a building having a cubic content considerably greater than that of any other building on the campus.