

It became necessary, therefore, to arrive at some design which should be large enough to meet these minimum requirements, while still appearing small enough to take its proper place among the other less extensive buildings of the group. In its final form, the mass of the structure was largely determined by the necessity for it to appear as small as possible; it was therefore given a flat roof, in this respect following an English rather than the American precedent."

The architect's description continues: "The construction is fire-proof: brick bearing walls, steel girders, and reinforced concrete floor and roof slabs. The specially hand-made face brick—a reproduction in size, color and texture of the Annapolis Colonial brick—is laid, with tight joints, in Flemish bond. The steps, and the coping and finials of the terrace walls, are of white marble. The cornices, window frames and sash, and the entrance door are of wood, while parts particularly subject to deterioration, such as copings, window sills, and the capitals and bases of the pilasters, are of limestone; but wood and limestone alike are finished to give a uniform white painted surface."

Exclusive of professional fees the building cost 60 cents a cubic foot for its approximately 300,000 cubic feet. The total cost was \$233,831.81 of which the State provided \$173,580.10 and the Public Works Administration \$60,251.71. The full amount appropriated from the bond issue was not made available because of the need to use some of these funds for the repair of the Governor's Mansion. The building itself cost \$205,575.90, the original equipment provided before the building was turned over to the Hall of Records Commission accounted for another \$28,255.91. The building is divided into two parts. There is a stack section of six floors from the basement level to the roof. This section is constructed exclusively of steel and concrete and is isolated from the rest of the building by fire doors. There are three normal entrances: from the Hall of Records research room, from the Land Office research room and from the Hall of Records office section. There is also an emergency entrance to the basement which was cut after the building was put into use. The air-conditioning system functions for the stack area alone and there is a dumbwaiter which provides the sole means of mechanical transport from one stack level to another.