

plans and report to the Assembly of 1931 (Acts 1929, Ch. 470). Meanwhile the Hall of Records had been mentioned at the second meeting of the Commission which was held May 21, 1928. It was mentioned again June 18, 1929 when the idea was attributed by a member of the Commission, Daniel Randall, to Chief Judge Carroll T. Bond who had intended to bring the matter before the Legislature but for reasons not given had not done so. By November of that year the Commission had firmly adopted the idea and was asking for recommendations for a site.

The choice of a site was not an easy one and was to cause much heartache before it was finally made. When the Legislature met in 1929, the Commission asked Governor Ritchie to include in his Supplementary Budget the sum of \$5,000 for the expenses of the Commission, including the sum necessary for the securing of an option on a desirable site. In the Spring of 1929 an offer was made of a lot on the St. John's College Campus, and at its first meeting the newly appointed Executive Committee of the Tercentenary Commission asked Mr. Randall and Mathew Page Andrews to investigate the possibilities of such a site. While negotiations with the St. John's College were going on, the Mullen Property adjoining the Post Office was suggested.

But the Commission soon became aware that approval of the Hall of Records project was not to be unanimous. Certain County officers were opposed to sending their records to Annapolis, and the Land Office and Maryland Historical Society were reluctant to relinquish their rights as archival agents for the State. This unexpected opposition, plus the great cost involved, induced a subcommittee of the Commission to ask the Governor to separate the Hall of Records project from the other features of the Tercentenary. They asked that \$400,000 be appropriated for the building and equipment, \$5,000 for an architect's competition and \$1,000 for the expenses of dedication. It will be seen that the Governor asked for half the amount proposed for the building, the competition was never held and the building never dedicated. But the Executive Committee rejected the recommendation of the subcommittee and perhaps by so doing saved the Hall of Records from being cut off altogether.

The Commission was very much divided over the question of a site, and until the last moment those who were opposed to the St.