

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Records

Montgomery County has been especially fortunate in preserving its governmental records. Its court, land and probate records may be said to be intact and there are records of the Commissioner of the Tax and other early administrative bodies which are almost totally lacking elsewhere.

Part of its good fortune is certainly due to the fact that it has escaped the normal hazards of acts of God and it has been out of the line of march of hostile human beings. Its courthouses since there has been any considerable accumulation of records have all been within one plot of land so that there was little incentive to destroy records in order to ease the problems of moving. It is a valid deduction too that the custodians of the records have valued them.

Note

The second Rockville courthouse, completed in 1840, has had some of the mystery surrounding it dispelled since the appearance of Volume I of this work. A picture which appeared in the *Montgomery County Sentinel* September 29, 1955 was sent me by Mr. Thomas M. Anderson, Jr., Attorney of Rockville and President of the Montgomery County Historical Society. This newspaper picture was rephotographed by the Hall of Records but was still so indistinct as to be useless as an illustration. However, it was clear enough to make it possible for the artist to find all the details for the drawing herewith reproduced. It would have been better to have found the photograph from which the newspaper reproduction was made but in spite of the efforts of Mr. Anderson and Miss Martha Sprigg Poole it could not be traced. It appears to have been the property of Mr. Albert Bouic of Rockville who lent it for use in the office of Judge Charles W. Woodward. On Judge Woodward's retirement the picture seems to have been returned to Mr. Bouic, but of this point and of its subsequent history no one is now certain.

A great deal more might have been known about this same courthouse if the full records of its construction had been found in the County Council's office. They were in existence in the late 1930's when the Historical Records Survey of the WPA listed them as Item No. 177 in *Inventory of the County and Town Archives of Maryland*. A diligent search made in 1962 for these records has unfortunately proved fruitless.

In the same work there was listed, Item No. 178, the *Proceedings of the Courthouse Committee of 1928-31*. This record is now in the Hall of Records and has been examined. The reader who wishes more detail may find it here, but it did not reveal any inaccuracies in the account of this courthouse given in Volume I.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1777--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1948--, microfilm. H.R. 1777-91; 1777-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO GRANTORS AND MORTGAGORS, 1777--. Russell-Key. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1777-1947.