

Annapolis, 22 Feb. 1884,

My dear Sir,

In compliance <sup>with</sup> your request as chairman  
of <sup>the</sup> Senate Committee on public build-  
ings I beg leave to submit to you & the  
Committee some suggestions <sup>with</sup> regard to the State  
House & its surround-<sup>ings</sup>, view & whatever  
improvement <sup>might</sup> or addition <sup>might</sup> it may be thought  
advisable to execute. My pride in my  
native State & my interest as an artist, & the  
judicious embellish-<sup>ment</sup> of our capital urge me  
to offer you most respectfully the best ideas I  
have accrued to me as the result of some study of the  
subject.

The "State-House" or "Stadt-house" at Annapolis  
described by colonial travellers (Sedgwick & others) as  
the "most elegant build-<sup>ing</sup>, and though now  
vastly surpassed in extent & embellish-<sup>ment</sup> by  
other state capitols is yet worthy in many respects  
this judicious criticism. The original design  
has been ascribed to Christopher Wren, the greatest  
modern English architect, <sup>but</sup> was most  
probably the work of his immediate successor or a  
pupil of his - The greatest quality of Architecture  
is beauty & propriety, an accompani-<sup>ment of that</sup>  
perfect style which appears periodically in the  
history of arch. Our state-house was designed  
at a period when its peculiar style of arch,

The Palladian, or Eng-It, had reached its best  
development & it is for this reason that the interior of the  
Rotunda, the purpose of the dome, & our senate-  
chamber (in its decay!) were looked upon by  
architects as peculiarly beautiful examples of  
their art.

The ornamental details of the Rotunda are today  
being restored in London as the most beautiful  
& appropriate decorations of the most fashionable  
interiors.

It is needless to enter into a list of the various  
alterations of the old bldg. which the  
has sustained; some may  
be regarded as improvements, made by artists  
who stood the style of the day & worthy of praise,  
others as mutilations, others as injudicious, because  
unharmonious, & some, the most expensive, dictated  
by false economy.

I would specifically suggest that in any improve-  
ments or additions to the bldg. & grounds the original  
style be strictly adhered to.

The fact that Annapolis is visited by more  
Americans & foreigners than probably any other  
our state capitals owing to the presence of the  
Naval Academy & our proximity to D.C.  
renders it particularly incumbent upon us to  
present at least a decorous & respectable  
appearance to the world; our State bldg. &  
its surroundings... Strangers from other States expect  
to find something to bear comparison with their own  
ample grounds & complete legislative  
accommodations... & above all to see, in a State

2<sup>d</sup> preserve / <sup>the</sup> historic locality of <sup>the</sup> Senate - Chamber  
as a state preserve chamber, known to the  
whole country as the scene of Washington's resignation  
& the confirming act of Independence.

The restoration of this room to its original  
appearance is an obligation & duty we owe to  
ourselves & to the country. The mutilation of this  
hall is looked upon by all visitors as an act  
of vandalism & tends to bring our historical renown  
as one of the "original thirteen" into contempt!

I would respectfully suggest the restoration of this  
room as nearly as possible to its original appearance  
to be preserved in this room condition & to be only  
used on occasions of special ceremony.

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P. 3-5 - other detailed suggestions  
For necessary enlargements, incl. library -  
apparently actual plans accompanied  
T. Suggs' ->

Although the State House grounds are very  
restricted & unworthy, such are the  
fortunate surroundings & a small expense  
would give all the advantages of space by  
connecting to present extent with the areas of the  
Governor's House, St. Anne's Church & St. John's  
College - or by purchasing the Main St,  
connecting with the proposed Federal P.O. site ... etc  
I call particular attention to this idea ... etc

∴ no time would be better than <sup>the</sup> present to purchase any additional ground as <sup>the</sup> steady increase in its value render it <sup>more</sup> difficult <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>present</sup> <sup>time</sup> to do so.

∴ a new Treasury bldg is required ∴

On acct<sup>of</sup> historical association<sup>tion</sup> as probably the now oldest bldg<sup>in</sup> Md<sup>the</sup> <sup>present</sup> Treasury shall be preserved & filled up as a wedge for a keeper<sup>of</sup> the grounds & State House ∴

Hope<sup>ing</sup> my remarks may not be need<sup>ed</sup> as unpertinent <sup>but</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> spirit of patriotism<sup>which</sup> & inspires them I beg leave to be very truly Yours etc,

Frank B. May Jr

To Dr F. W. Lancaster

Senator <sup>from</sup> Charles C.

& Chairman<sup>of</sup> Com. on Public Bldgs.