

A Council was generally assembled and held at the Port of Annapolis the last day of April in the eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King William the third of Great Britain 1696 and then continued until the 14 day of May after being the fifth Session and by his Excellency's proclamation bearing date the 4 day of March past and was prorogued until that day

Present

His Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq Captain General

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the honorable
Col^l George Polotham
Col^l Nicholas Greenberry
Col^l Charles Hutchins
Col^l David Burne

His Excellency is pleased to go up attended with the Gentlemen of his Majesty's honorable Council to the Place where the State House is building the Clerk being Ordered upon a Message to the House of Burgesses to acquaint them with his Excellency's Pleasure that they are required to attend there when he and see how they approve of the foundation of the said State House as now laid who accordingly came up and view and measure the length and Breadth thereof and thickness of the Walls and do well approve and finds the same to be according to Contract

Ordered that the Builders give an Account in Writing under their hands what manner of work the said foundation stands in and in what places they have drove down Stakes for making the Foundation firmer and that the said Account be entered as well in the Journal of the House as of this Board to remain upon Record to Posterity

The members of the House of Burgesses having received directions to repair to their House take leave accordingly and go His Excellency signifying at their departure that some business should be sent them presently by the Clerk in relation to the aforementioned State House

Sent by the Clerk of this Board the several following Proposals in Order to be laid before the House of Delegates and Burgesses for their consideration

Proposed that a Law or Ordinance of Assembly pass for these private Rooms to be made in the new State House for the several Offices viz^t for the Provincial Offices and ^{County Courts Office & Office of the Councils Office} Offices Commisarys Office and that a Bar be placed at the door of each Office within which no Person whatsoever shall come save the Clerks & that no Clerk carry any Record Book or Publick Papers out of their respective