

*Washington Resigning:
One of Maryland's Many Public Art Treasures*

This famous image of Washington resigning his commission as commander-in-chief before the Continental Congress has hung in the State House since it was painted in 1858 by Edwin White at the request of the Maryland General Assembly. It originally hung in the Old Senate Chamber and has been in the main stairwell since the building of the new annex to the State House in 1902-05.

Washington Resigning is one of the many treasures of state-owned public art on display in this historic building and throughout the Annapolis complex. The Senate Chamber is graced with portraits of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the one of Charles Carroll of Carrollton by Thomas Sully is considered to be one of the finest portraits of a public figure in America.

Another treasure in Maryland's collection of artwork is the portrait of *Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown* that hangs here in the Old Senate Chamber. Painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1784, also at the request of the General Assembly, it is one of the most iconic images to emerge from the Revolutionary War. Its frame was designed and made by Peale and assembled by John Shaw according to Peale's instructions.

These three paintings are just a few of the wonderful paintings, sculpture and decorative arts that make up Maryland's renowned collections of public art. They are managed and cared for by the curators of the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property of the Maryland State Archives. The state's collections are among the most significant of any in the nation, both artistically and historically, and are a source of pride for all Marylanders.

*Prepared for the Maryland Senate by the
Maryland Commission on Artistic Property of the
Maryland State Archives*

Washington Resigning by Edwin White, 1817-1877
Oil on Canvas, 1858 MSA SC 1545-1112

George Washington's Birthday Celebration



The Maryland Senate

The Old Senate Chamber
Maryland State House
Annapolis

February 21, 2005

George Washington's Maryland

Although he was a Virginian, George Washington had strong personal and political ties to Maryland. He visited Maryland on many occasions for affairs of state and for pleasure.

Washington's most famous visit to Maryland was, of course, for his appearance before the Continental Congress, then meeting in the Old Senate Chamber, to resign his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army on December 23, 1783.

This was only one of numerous visits to Maryland that Washington recorded in his diary. As a young man, he surveyed the western part of the state and, later in life, lobbied hard in Annapolis for a bill to create a joint venture with Virginia to open up the Potomac River to navigation.

But Washington was, by no means, all business. He loved a good party and went to many dinners, balls, theater performances, and horse races in Maryland. He often attended the racetrack in Annapolis and foxhunted in both Maryland and Virginia.

One of the places he visited most often was Warburton Manor, the home of his friends, the Digges, across the Potomac from Mt. Vernon in Prince George's County. Another close connection was with the Calverts at Mt. Airy. Washington's stepson, John Parke Custis, married Eleanor Calvert, daughter of Benedict Swingate Calvert, sealing a familial tie between Maryland's founding family and the Father of Our Country.

Program

Session Convenes

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Maryland Senate
Presiding

Recess to the Old Senate Chamber

Invocation

Reverend Robert L. Conway
Pastor, Mt. Olive and Carroll-Western
United Methodist Churches
Prince Frederick

Musical Selections

American Tears
We Might Heal

Washington's Birthday Remarks

Senator Miller

God Bless the USA

Adjourn

Musical selections courtesy of the Off Broadway Kids
and Senior Ensemble of Maryland Sings
Bill Myers, Director