

Draft Interpretive Framework for the

MARYLAND STATE HOUSE



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Prepared for: Maryland State Archives
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Interpretive Development Mission, Goals & Audience	2
Levels of Interpretation & Key Themes	3
Visitor Walk Through	4
Interpretive Content Outline	8
Physical Elements Schedule (Excel Grid)	57
Schematic Design	65
Plan Views of Interpretive Locations	
Overall Site Plan	
Floor Plan – Ground Level	
Floor Plan – Second Floor	
Typical Graphics / Signage / Sketches	68
Exterior Banners	
Exterior Signage	
New 1st Floor Entry Signage/Banners	
1st Floor Graphics/Wayfinding	
Intro. Panel (top of steps) & Intro Kiosk (freestanding)	
Sketch - Intro Kiosk (freestanding) Ship & Flag	
Typ. Timeline 2A 1750 – 1800 (prototype)	
Sketch - Typical Case Design - Washington's Resignation Letter	
Sketch - Old House of Delegates w/ Immersive Scrim Production	
Typ. Timeline 7A 1902 – 1950 (prototype)	
Evaluation Plans	78
Front-end Focus Group Results	84
Draft Budget	
Opinion of Probable Cost	91

INTRODUCTION

This document presents research, conceptual development, visitor evaluation and schematic design for the new interpretation and redesign of the Maryland State House, Annapolis, MD. Developed from multiple sources and vetted, this document outlines the mission, goals, objectives and major themes that should drive decision making and creation of the MSH interpretation.

Our process to develop an overall interpretive plan began with important input and direction from the Achieves staff, and continued with full review of multiple sources of information, mainly the C&G Partners Master Plan document. Working in conjunction with the Archives Directors, we were able to spring-board from the Master Plan and develop, augment, and move forward with new and refined directions. Focus groups were conducted with multiple visitor demographics, including teachers, tour operators, school groups and tourists.

Once interests, expectations, ideas, stories and facts were collected, created and connected to the physical building and other material culture such as the Maryland State House paintings and objects, an overall Interpretive Plan and Prototype Designs were developed. These Prototypes were produced in full size and an evaluation was conducted with the different visitor constituents. Results were reviewed and plans and designs further refined to consider learnings from visitor research. Typical schematic designs and approaches to different forms of interpretation are presented in this document.

This document is the summary of our year-long process, as well as a documentation of potential content for further development. The recommendations and decisions presented are not set in stone, and in several instances provide alternative options for the next level of the process. This document should be utilized in conjunction with the C&G Master Plan Document, and is a transitional vehicle to get the Maryland State House to the next phase which is design development and, ultimately, to fabrication and installation of new interpretive exhibits.

Please contact us if there are any questions or further clarifications needed.

Beth Twiss Houting & Polly McKenna-Cress

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

FOR INTERPRETATION AT THE MARYLAND STATE HOUSE

Engaged with history—and inspired to act.

GOALS:

- To present four centuries of individuals' actions in the Maryland State House and how these actions reflected, affected and influenced our Nation's History.
- To illustrate the importance of the Maryland State House as the site and seat of critical decision-making about liberty, freedom and equality.
- To position Maryland State House as a center for civic discourse and debate where all people, from school children to elected officials, have a voice.
- To understand the impact of art, craft, politics and patriotism
- To demonstrate the power of individuals to affect action and become part of a nation.
- To present Maryland's history as a haven for religious freedoms and for immigrants in particular.
- To enhance the visitor experience through successfully exhibiting all of these goals

AUDIENCES

1. School Groups
2. Tours
3. Legislators
4. Walk-in visitors and residents

LEVELS OF INTERPRETATION

1. Orientation – to MSH, to visit and to Maryland
 - a. Wayfinding signs outside of building
 - b. Ground floor entrance
 - c. Panels at top of stairs on second floor
 - d. Film in Archives Room
 - e. Pick up map/brochure
 - f. Cell phone tours

2. Dynamic Timeline – goes throughout main level lobby
Three layers of stories:
 - The Building
 - Maryland
 - The Nation

3. Exhibits - material culture in the physical primary manifestation of stories
 - a. In rooms of 1772/9 section of MSH
 - b. On panels and in cases with timeline
 - c. Panels outside of building
 - d. Use of immersible techniques
 - i. Bronze statues
 - ii. Audio and projected video on scrim

4. Other delivery options for content
 - a. Audio Tours – additional depth, language and ethnic diversity, biographies, reading of letters, sounds to build drama
 - b. Website – deeper primary source from achieves, teacher resource for classroom use/ field trip support (pre & post visit information) timeline as content
 - c. Cell Phone Tours – flexible, changeable content from multiple sources

KEY UNDERLYING THEMES

1. Crafting a nation
2. Craftsmanship
3. Freedom
4. Immigration
5. Solving history's puzzle - making connections from content
6. Being a part of making Maryland

MARYLAND STATE HOUSE VISITOR WALK-THROUGH

A family with two elementary school age children and a 4th grade teacher are planning a trip to Annapolis. The family lives in the Midwest, and the parents want to show their children Revolutionary War sites on the East Coast. They search on the Web and decide the State House of Maryland would fit well as they travel from Valley Forge to Williamsburg because of its association with George Washington. The teacher has booked a walking tour of the City with “Watermarks” to culminate a unit on state history. While the historical events that occurred in the State House are important, she also wants the children to learn about the workings and structure of their government.

On a Friday morning in early spring, the “Watermarks” guided class and the family arrive at the State House. As they approach the State House Circle, colorful banners pique their curiosity by hinting at what they may see and learn inside. “What is the Mason-Dixon Line?” reads a school child to her classmates. “Where is the Maryland Governor’s office? Hmm. . . , I wonder what that has to do with the State House?” ponders the Mom out loud. Other banners indicate the entrance is at the ground level to the right and behind the grand staircase.

Entrance to the State House

The students and family join the line awaiting security clearance. Passing through the portal, they see more banners and text on the floor welcoming them to the first peacetime capitol of the United States. Security personnel add warm greetings as these visitors move successfully through the metal detectors. The teacher smiles to see the 4th graders reading words on the floor that let them know, at the outset, that they are part of the representative democracy. The Midwestern children also marvel at the picture made by an image cut and applied to the stair risers leading to the main level. When they walk around the image comes together like a puzzle, it is George Washington! Dad chuckles as he reads, “George did not sleep here but he did resign here. . . Come up and see where and why.”

Area 1: Second Floor Landing

Arriving at the top of the stairs, a large panel welcomes visitors again and reminds them of the special status this state capitol has. Mom reaches for the brochure offered there as a self guide. While she orients herself, the Watermarks’ guide leads her group directly to the left to look briefly at the Calvert portraits on the wall along the stair landing. Because the group had gone to the Old Treasury Building before entering the State House, the students already have learned that the first capitol of Maryland was in St. Mary’s City and the colony was founded by the Calvert family. The guide then ushers the group into the original half of the Statehouse. The students ooh and aah at their first view of the Rotunda dome with a large flag hanging there and a miniature ship below. The guide deftly leads the students to the Stairwell Room where they can view a model of the dome and learn about the work of John Shaw, the building’s first superintendent. In fact, they “meet” a bronze statue of Shaw as he bends to repair a step.

Area 2: Stairwell Room

This bronze statue is not the first, nor the last way in which students are introduced to the people instrumental in crafting the new nation and the important events that take place in the State House. Charles Willson Peale is descending the stair, another craftsman whose paintings hang gallery style in the next room – the Old Senate Committee Room. George Washington himself stands in front of the Old Senate Chamber as he did December 23, 1783, to resign his commission as general of the Continental Army. The students gaze around in awe at the newly restored and highly detailed chamber: the furniture, paintings, and interior details. They become eye witnesses, along with James McHenry, who records the happenings from his secretarial seat. Molly Ridout leans over the visitors’

balcony railing in anticipation. Through the window, a student points out a bronze horse, rein held by the hand of a slave, awaiting Washington's departure. Quickly the class grasps how many different kinds of people are involved in a historical event and how this event shaped our notion of a citizen-commander.

Area 4: Rotunda

The guide gathers the students and leads them back to the Rotunda. They reconnoiter in the center of the space to learn about Maryland's role in the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Again it was citizens - elected and appointed - who worked on committees to fix the governing process of the new nation. The miniature ship the students see is a reproduction of *The Federalist*, a remembrance of the happy celebration Baltimoreans staged on the State's ratification of the Constitution and their gift to George Washington on this occasion.

Area 5: Old House of Delegates

Moving into richly restored old House of Delegates, the group witnesses historical events in another exciting fashion. The entire room is the setting of an object theater. The 4th graders quiet as the lights dim and a screen drops down from the ceiling. They hear the hustle and bustle of virtual people entering the room. As they watch the screen, it looks as though there are delegates coming into the room and settling into their seats. A voice tells them that the delegates are about to start their session, and they see the Speaker come into the scene, taking his seat and calling the meeting to order. Hearing the 19th century language, the students are further transported back in time. Quotes from famous cases and decision about laws are discussed as spotlights come up on portraits on the wall of the individuals as they speak. Spotlights also shine on individual documents and details in the room as the narrative plays through.

The students learn of how different people through the century struggled with the concepts of freedom in a republic. Who should vote? What rights did non-white males have? They hear from Maryland's Frederick Douglas and see a projected image of him giving a speech. They hear from Judge Taney on his opinions about the Dred Scott vs. Sandford case of 1857, where Taney stated that Congress had no authority to restrict the spread of slavery into federal territories. Once the discussion has resolved itself, the Speaker adjourns the meeting and announces the final outcome. With the show over, the screen retracts into the ceiling and the lights come up on two famous paintings on the right side of the room, *The Burning of the Peggy Stewart* and *The Planting of the Colony of Maryland* that visually leads visitors out of the room.

Area 7: House of Delegates

The school visit continues now in the newer, 1902 section of the State House, where the theme of crafting legislation helps the students see how the process and products of governing are constantly changing as individuals – elected and citizen – shape government to society's needs. While viewing the current House of Delegates and Senate chambers, students hear how women gain the vote, African Americans are elected to office, and child labor laws are enacted. Even students have their say in government. Photographs outside the Senate Chamber show classes visiting the Governor in his office on the second floor of the State House, but students are fascinated by the large silver punch bowl in the middle of the hall. In 1906, school children saved their coins to the amount of \$5,000 to create this tureen for the U.S. Navy's new armored cruiser, the USS Maryland, to commemorate their State's history. After an exciting half-hour walk through Maryland history, the 4th graders exit out the front grand stair, inspired (the teacher hopes) to consider their roles as citizens. Back in the classroom, she plans to reiterate this lesson by using resources downloaded from the State House website.

Timeline

Meanwhile, our family has used the restrooms and Mom has discovered that, besides the brochure, there is a mounted timeline that will guide the family through its visit. Looking like a wooden banner, this timeline is placed about three feet from the floor at various places around the Rotunda and hall. As the Mom tells her family, the top “board” of the timeline will tell them about the growth of the building and some events that occurred there. The middle “board” will talk about important events in the State of Maryland occurring during the same time period, and the bottom “board” will relate State events to national ones.

Rotunda

The family moves to its left. They see an interpretive kiosk with touchscreen freestanding in the hallway. Then they move into the impressive Rotunda space of the original portion of the building. The older child reads from the timeline that the dome is the nation’s largest wooden, pegged dome. “Wow!” says Dad. One of the children spots a touch screen nearby. It has an image of White’s “Washington Resigning his Commission” on it, and looking up, the family can see the actual painting located on the second floor landing. As visitors touch the different figures in the image, they receive more detailed information about the individuals, i.e. the identity of the woman sitting in the Old Senate Chamber during Washington’s speech and why she is allowed to be present at such an event. The monitor also encourages visitors to stand in the very room on the very spot in which this event took place, the Old Senate Chamber Room.

Area 2: Archives Room

After a few minutes exploring the interactive, Mom points the way to the Archives Room. Serving as a visitor center, it features a brief orientation film that highlights the founding of the Colony and the historical events of the 17th through the 19th centuries and shows graphically the way in which the building has evolved.

Area 3: Old Senate Chamber & Committee Room

Now the family picks up the school group’s path. In the Old Senate Chamber complex of rooms, the bronze statues enthrall the family members too, but moving at a more leisurely rate, they also meander from display to display. Mom admires the original desk built by Shaw, one exhibit in the Stairwell Room; Dad is intrigued by the documents relating to the Treaty of Paris in the Old Senate Committee Room. The kids enjoy spotting the “fun facts” on the timelines and sharing historical trivia.

The whole family gathers round the central vitrine in the Old Senate Committee Room to view the manuscript of Washington’s resignation speech. Seeing the original documents, especially ones in Washington’s hand, adds to the real-life experience of the Old Senate Chamber itself. In the Old Senate Chamber, they also can read the letter James McHenry wrote his fiancé about the event.

Older Building to New

The parent’s interest in historic preservation and decorative arts is fed throughout the tour. Timeline sections detail the original interiors, restoration, and building campaigns. For example, at the juncture between the old and new portions of the building, the family encounters another flat screen monitor. They see an early illustration of the first Annapolis State House, drawn from a 1695 conjectural drawing of that building before it burned. A single three-story structure with very few other building surrounding it, it looks so different from the large structure in the dense city circle that it is today. The children turn a large dial in front of the monitor, and the building begins to literally disappear or burn. Then, as the children keep rotating the dial, the new 1709 structure appears. Turning the dial further, the building slowly evolves and grows over time. The illustration morphs from a black and white sketch of a single building into a color photograph of the complex building today. With every iteration,

a new date appears at the bottom of the screen along with information on shifts in room function and the number of people who have worked here over time. The kids keep rotating until they end up back at the original 1695 site.

Outside & Old Treasury Building

When the family completes viewing the current assembly chambers, they take time to wander the State House grounds. Now they find the Old Treasury Building. Here the family enjoys the recreated self-guided exhibits. Especially appealing to the kids is the open treasury chest with reproductions of valuables inside. They find more timelines by various memorial and statues, such as the Martin Luther King Memorial Tree and Judge Taney statue that help them look more closely and consider Maryland's role in national politics. Whether visiting with a class or family and friends, visitors to the State House leave with a better understanding of the building's role in making life in Maryland and the United States what it is today. These visitors have been engaged with history and, through that experience, now are inspired to do their part as citizens.

INTERPRETIVE CONTENT OUTLINE

How to Use this Section

The overall Interpretive Plan for the Maryland State House identifies eight interpretative Areas, each containing multiple Sections and Topics. The following Interpretive Content Outline is organized by assigning each Area a number; Sections within an particular Area are assigned a letter, and identify the space and interpretive theme for that Area; Topics within a particular Section are assigned Roman numerals. (e.g. Area 1 - Section 1A - Topics – I, II, III, etc.). This identification system is also cross-referenced to the Floor Plan and Physical Elements Schedule.

The content comes from a variety of sources. For clarity, its source or purpose is labeled and the information typeset in the following manner:

LABEL CONTENT

Information derived from the current “Four Centuries of History” exhibition in the House of Delegates Building and “Draft: The Maryland State House Annapolis: A Guide to the Permanent Exhibits” by Archivist Edward C. Papenfuse. The latter was used for the State House installation prior to March 2008, and much of the content in it would be excellent fodder for the website and cell phone tours to add depth for visitors.

RAW CONTENT

Information that we uncovered in our research and might be useful to work into final drafting of labels or other interpretive aids.

ARTIFACT CONTENT

Provides identification and, in some cases, interpretive information for the artifacts found on the Physical Elements Schedule.

TIMELINE CONTENT

Provides either the label content or the raw content to construct the reading rail timeline both inside the State House Rotunda and Hall as well as on State House Circle. The topics for the timeline also are noted on the Physical Elements Schedule and Floor Plans.

For future phases of development, this document provides content from research or review that could be useful in writing labels or developing elements for each interpretive Area. Some of the content, due to its limited public appeal or depth of information, needs further development and refinement of purpose, so has not been given any particular designation in this document (i.e., some content may be appropriate for the website or for the cell phone tour).

The conclusion of the Interpretive Content Outline includes suggestions for Fun Facts that could be added to the timeline, a feature that tested very well with visitors.

1A Top of Stairs: Welcome to the Maryland State House

I. Introduction to visit and Maryland

RAW CONTENT:

State House as first peacetime capitol of Maryland
Handout map of State House

1B On stair landing: Introduction

I. Introduction to timeline

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

Learn about the growth of the building and the special events that occurred here

The State

What was happening in the State during this time

The Nation

How does Maryland's history relate to national history

1C Landing: Founding of Maryland

I. Short introduction to history of Maryland

ARTIFACTS CONTENT:

The Houghton Manuscript of the Maryland Charter, ca. 1634-1664

Courtesy of Mr. Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1061

A facsimile of the earliest manuscript translation of the original Latin Charter of Maryland granted to Cecil Calvert, Second Lord Baltimore, and June 20, 1632.

Nova Terra-Mariae Tabula, by John Ogilby, 1671

William T. Snyder Collection

Reprinted from The Hammond Harwood House Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908 by Edward

C. Papenfuse and Joseph M. Coale III

A facsimile of the first map of Maryland to indicate counties.

The House of Lords' Copy of the Original Charter of Maryland, 1734

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

The earliest verified and authenticated copy of the original Charter of Maryland.

The original document was on loan to the State of Maryland from the Library of the House of Lords in honor of the 350th anniversary of Maryland and the occasion of the visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent to the State House, June 21, 1984.

The Planting of the Colony of Maryland

Francis Blackwell Mayer (1827-1899)

Oil on canvas, 1893

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-1125

This painting depicts the landing of the first settlers in the colony of Maryland on March 25, 1634 on St. Clement's Island in what is now St. Mary's County. Led by Leonard Calvert, first proprietary governor, the group departed from Cowes, England, on November 22, 1633 aboard two ships, the Ark and the Dove. In this scene, the settlers prepare to erect a rough-hewn cross, symbolizing the religious tolerance upon which the colony was founded. The events of this historic day are commemorated annually on March 25, "Maryland Day."

George Calvert, First Lord Baltimore (1578/79-1632)

John Alfred Vintner (1828-1905) after Daniel Mytens (1590-1685)

Oil on canvas, circa 1881

Gift of John Work Garrett, 1884

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-1101

First Lord Baltimore and recipient of the charter for the province of Avalon. Calvert later petitioned King James I for an area north of the Potomac River. Calvert died a few weeks before the charter papers were ready for presentation and the charter was ultimately issued to his son, Cecil.

II. Invite visitors to see Old Treasury BuildingARTIFACT CONTENT:**Old Treasury Building**

George Forbes Collection

Hand-colored glass lantern slide, c. 1900

Maryland State Archives, MSA SC 182-02-0094

RAW CONTENT:

Suggest people visit Old Treasury Building to learn more about 17th century Maryland

III. Overview building of State HouseARTIFACT CONTENT:**The 18th Century State House**

On March 28, 1772, Governor Robert Eden laid the cornerstone for what would be the third State House built on State Circle in Annapolis. The first, built soon after the capital was moved from St. Mary's City to Annapolis in 1695, burned down in 1704. The second was completed by 1709 and, sixty years later, had become far too small for the growing business of government and was too dilapidated to warrant enlarging it. Annapolis merchant Charles Wallace worked from plans drafted by local architect Joseph Horatio Anderson to oversee the construction.

Work on the new State House began under Wallace's direction in early 1772. While work progressed well for the first year and a half, at least one hurricane and the Revolutionary War intervened to cause enormous delays and difficulties. By the end of 1779, the building was still not completed, and Mr. Wallace's finances and patience with the project were exhausted. Although construction was not finished, the General Assembly met in the building at the start of the 1779 Session of the legislature. Every legislative session since 1779 has been held in the State House, making it the oldest state house in continuous legislative use.

When the Georgian building was completed, the State House housed all three branches of state government. The adjacent floor plan published in *The Columbian Magazine* shows the building's symmetrical layout. The front entrance to the building served as the primary entrance until 1905.

The Maryland State House was the first peacetime capitol of the United States and is the only state house ever to have served as the nation's capitol. The Continental Congress met in the Old Senate Chamber from November 26, 1783, to August 13, 1784. During that time, General George Washington came before the Congress to resign his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and the Treaty of Paris was ratified, marking the official end of the Revolutionary War.

TIMELINE CONTENT:**The Building**

This building is 2nd capitol of Md to be built on this site

Built 1772-1779

The State

1st capital was St. Mary's 1634-1695

The Nation

State House was 1st peacetime capitol of Maryland

1D Bottom of steps to 3rd floor

I. Painting of George Washington resigning his Commission

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Washington Resigning His Commission

Edwin White (1817-1877)

Oil on canvas, 1858

Commissioned by the Maryland Legislature, 1856

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-1112

This monumental painting depicts the scene in the Old Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House on December 23, 1783, when General George Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the victorious Continental Army. The solemn ceremony is well documented in first person accounts as well as in the published rules of the ceremony, which stated that, "the President and members are to be seated and covered...The General is to be seated with an aide on each side, standing...the General is to arise, and address Congress...the President is to deliver the answer of Congress...the General...is to bow to Congress, which they are to return by uncovering without bowing." The protocol for the event was planned to re-emphasize the supremacy of the civilian representatives of the people over the military. Despite this formality, one witness, James McHenry, reported that "the spectators all wept, and there was hardly a member of Congress who did not drop tears."

In composing this monumental painting, the original of which is 16 feet wide and nearly 8 feet tall, Edwin White took some liberties in depicting those present at the ceremony, including such figures as Martha Washington and her niece who were at Mount Vernon at the time. A similar painting depicting the scene of Washington's Resignation was painted by John Trumbull (1756-1843) between 1822 and 1824. It is installed in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

RAW CONTENT:

Content for touch-screen interactive: Interpretation of Senate Floor in Painting

Washington's resignation was delivered at a meeting of the Continental Congress, which convened in Annapolis on November 26. The solemn ceremony is well documented in first person accounts as well as in the published rules of the ceremony, which stated that, "the President and members are to be seated and covered...The General is to be seated with an aide on each side, standing...the General is to arise, and address Congress...the President is to deliver the answer of Congress...the General...is to bow to Congress, which they are to return by uncovering without bowing." The stiff formality and deference were designed to re-emphasize the supremacy of the civilian representatives of the people over the military. Despite this formality, one witness, James McHenry, reported that "the spectators all wept, and there was hardly a member of Congress who did not drop tears."

1E Central panel at entry to Rotunda, leads towards Archives Room

I. Orientation to old part of building kiosk

Touch screen kiosk

LABEL CONTENT:

A. Buildings and Statues on State Circle

1. 1696-1698: First State House at Annapolis is built, along with "several Posts... to hang horses on," and a "Pissduit and House of Office [Privy] some where near the State House."

2. 1699: State Circle is described as containing "a State House and a free school, built with brick, which make a great show among a Parcel of wooden houses..."

3. 1704-1772: First State House burns in 1704, and a second State House referred to as the "Court House" because the Anne Arundel County meets there when the legislature is not in session, is built by 1707. Remains in use until demolished for the third State House ca. 1772.

4. 1716-1718: A separate building is constructed on the north-east side of the second State House to serve as an Armory and meeting place for the Governor's Council and Upper House of the Legislature. In the early 19th century it is recalled as "a large hall, the walls covered with arms above the seats which were all around the room. A

seat opposite the door for the Governor and his lady over which hung a full length portrait of the Proprietor, Lord Baltimore, in his flowing robes. Being used for a ballroom as well as an armory, a wooden gilt chandelier depended from the vaulted roof and the lights interspersed among the arms, gave it on ball nights a very splendid appearance..."

5. 1769-Present: In 1769 the General Assembly appropriates 7,500 pounds sterling for a new State House. Between 1770 and 1772 the second State House is razed and on March 28, 1772, the cornerstone of the present State House is laid. Seven years later it is ready for the November session of the legislature and shortly thereafter, the other offices in the building, including four specially designed and fireproof Archives Rooms, are open for business.

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

Old (1772-1779) vs. new (1902)
Wide Black Marble Line to divide two-sided
Fossils in floor

The State

Oldest state house in continuous use

The Nation

1960 made National Historic Landmark

Area 1 - Archive Room: Introduction to Building and Visit

I. Visitor center

RAW CONTENT:

- A. Pick up cell phone tour (panel of explanation of how to use)
- B. Orientation video
 - Major interpretive themes –
 - Crafting the Nation
 - Crafting the Building; Architecture & Function
 - Freedom for all types of people
 - Immigration
 - Solving history's puzzle

II. Archive Room Construction

RAW CONTENT:

1858 – Fireproof brick floor

Original exterior of building
Fire Place in an archive

LABEL CONTENT:

1858-1902:

"A substantial, thoroughly fireproof building, sufficiently spacious to serve for ages as a depository of the archives of the State" is begun in 1858 and completed by late 1859. Used as offices for the Comptroller, the Commissioner of the Land Office, the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, the Insurance Commissioner, the Tax Commissioner, and the State Fisheries force, by 1902 it proves inadequate. It is demolished and replaced by a new office building just to the north of State Circle.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Maryland Charter

Mitchell Map 1756 and documents

2A Outside Stairwell Room: Crafting the Maryland State House 1750-1800

I. Building of Dome

LABEL CONTENT:

The State House Dome

From the very beginning the original dome designed for the State House proved troublesome and inadequate. A visitor in 1777 referred to it as a “cupola,” implying that it was unimpressive. Another visitor in 1783 referred to it as a “small dome.” It not only was out of proportion to the building, but also leaked. By 1785 Joseph Clark undertook to repair the roof and build a new dome of more imposing scale. As one workman wrote in June 1785:

We git one Dollar a Day each of us & Gits our money every Saturday Night And we get Boarding at two Dolars a Week the work We are Going to put a new roof on the Governor’s house and we are a Going to take the Roof off[f] the State House and it is going to Raise it one story higher and the Doom is to be Sixty foot higer than the old one.

The work on the exterior of the dome was completed by the summer of 1788. It closely resembles a similar wooden dome in Karlsruhe, Germany. Perhaps Clark saw a print of the dome in his brother Stephen’s bookstore and print shop in Annapolis. Whatever the inspiration, the dome is the largest 18th century wooden structure of its kind still surviving in America. Its builder, Joseph Clark, was plagued with financial difficulties and apparently was never fully compensated by the state. The interior of the dome, under Clark’s supervision, was nearly completed in 1793, when the contractor for the plaster work, Thomas Dance, had a fatal accident. A local resident recorded in his diary “Today—Dance the Plasterer, fell from the upper scaffold of the Doome of the Stadt House, and is dead or dying. . . supposed to be about 90 feet high from where he fell.” Although Dance’s widow petitioned the General Assembly for an “annuity for life, or a sum of money sufficient to defray the passage of herself and daughter to their native country,” her request was denied.

The Dance tragedy only added to Joseph Clark’s disillusionment with the project. He abandoned it altogether in 1794, leaving John Shaw, one of the carpentry contractors on the dome and Clark’s principal foreman, to oversee its completion on his own.

1785-1794:

The original dome of the State House is removed and a new one erected. The exterior is completed by the summer of 1788. The interior carpentry and plaster work are finished in 1797.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Model of the State House Dome

Rebecca A. Fuller, 1983

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

The Maryland State House was built from 1772 to 1779, at a time when Annapolis was already nearly a century old. It was the third capitol building on this site. The soaring white dome, added by Annapolis architect Joseph Clark, was erected between 1785 and 1789. To this day, it is still the largest wooden dome in the United States, rising 113 feet above where you now stand.

A Man of Many Talents

John Shaw, born in Glasgow, Scotland, had many careers during his residence in Annapolis: He was a cabinetmaker, an inventor, an undertaker, state armourer, a merchant, and a City Councilman. In 1780, Shaw became the supervisor of the Maryland State House. He held this position faithfully for the next 39 years, and took care of every aspect of the building. A letter chest and desk from his “office” still survive.

View from the Dome

Many famous visitors—including Thomas Jefferson and James Madison—walked to the top of the State House Dome to look out over the capital. Maryland painter Charles Willson Peale, one of the finest artists in the colonies, was so impressed by the sight that he painted a mural of the city.

Fun fact: The gilded “acorn” on top of the State House dome holds the building’s original lightning rod. Constructed according to the principles of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the rod was carefully encased in new wood in 1996.

Image 1: Engraving of State House attributed to Charles Willson Peale, published in 1789.

Image 2: 1967 photo of the dome.

Image 3-5: The dome provided an eye on the town. Stereographic views of Annapolis photographed in 1870 by C. H. Hopkins.

Views a, b, c – captions

The State

Maryland's charter was granted in 1632, but its official northern boundary wasn't established until the next century. Named for the two British surveyors who mapped it, the Mason-Dixon line was drawn in 1767 to separate the land grants of the Calvert family in Maryland from those of the Penn family in Pennsylvania.

Mason and Dixon's survey settled more than 80 years of disputes. The new border was marked with stone pillars called "Crown Stones," placed every five miles. Later, the 233-mile line became the divider between the northern and the southern states, and no expansion of slavery was allowed above it.

Slavery in Maryland

Tobacco was the key to Maryland's wealth. In 1729, Lord Benedict Leonard Calvert wrote, "Tobacco, as our staple, is our all, and indeed leaves no room for anything else." Slave ships arriving at Annapolis City Dock brought men and women in chains to plant and harvest the colony's crop. By 1750, the slave trade was well established, and by the end of the century, nearly 103,000 people—a third of the state's population—lived in bondage.

In 1774, lawmakers officially ended the colony's participation in the international slave trade, but the practice of slavery continued for another 90 years.

Image 1: Mason/Dixon - "crafting" the line

Image 2: Calvert family member – founding the colony

The Nation

At the same time the State House was being built, Maryland leaders were helping to craft a new nation in Philadelphia. When the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, William Paca, and Thomas Stone were among the signers.

It took another eight years and the conclusion of the American Revolutionary War before their freedom was secure. On January 14, 1784, Congress convened at the Maryland State House to ratify the Treaty of Paris, which established the United States as an independent and sovereign nation.

Maryland's Signers

Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832) was born in Annapolis and became a senator in the first U.S. Congress. He was the only Roman Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, and the last signer to die.

William Paca (1740-1799), who served as a mayor of Annapolis, also signed the Declaration. His home and garden, just a few blocks from here, are open to visitors.

Fun Fact:

John Trumbull began painting "The Declaration of Independence" more than ten years after the event. He worked from a sketch presented to him by Thomas Jefferson, but some signers are missing from his version of the famous scene.

Image 1: Charles Carroll – Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832) was born in Annapolis and became a senator in the first U.S. Congress. He was the only Roman Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, and the last signer to die.

Image 2: Signing of the Declaration – John Trumbull imagined what the Assembly Room in Philadelphia's State House (today called Independence Hall) looked like on July 4 when the Declaration of Independence was adopted. The painting was commissioned in 1817 and placed in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in 1826.

Image 3: William Paca - William Paca (1740-1799) who had been an Annapolis mayor signed the Declaration of Independence. Today his home is open for tours.

Area 2 - Stairwell Room: Craftspeople 1750-1800

I. John Shaw

LABELS CONTENT:

John Shaw: Cabinetmaker of Annapolis and Caretaker of the State House

John Shaw (1745-1829) is widely considered to be the premier cabinetmaker of Annapolis during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He owned the largest furniture-making shop in Annapolis which produced furniture for private and public patrons, including many commissions for work at the Maryland State House. In addition to making furniture for the State House, Shaw also served as the official caretaker of the building from the mid-1780s until 1819. He also served as state armorer for more than three decades.

Born in England and trained in Scotland, Shaw came to Annapolis in the early 1760s as a cabinetmaker. Between 1772 and 1776 and in 1783, he partnered with fellow Scotsman Archibald Chisholm. Shaw opened his own cabinet-making business across the street from the State House at the end of 1784, and he worked there until his retirement in 1819.

The commissions that Shaw received from the state proved to be his steadiest, but not lucrative, source of work. Shaw's duties at the capitol ranged from providing furniture to performing or supervising all repairs and maintenance to the building, furnishings, and the grounds. It was Shaw who readied the State House for the illumination and celebratory ball the evening before Washington's resignation in December 1783.

Shaw received his most important commission to supply furniture for the State House in 1797 when the General Assembly ordered him to supply 24 mahogany arm chairs, 10 mahogany desks for the Senate and 1 desk for the Senate president. The apprentices and journeymen cabinetmakers in Shaw's shop worked from design patterns created by Shaw to help construct the furniture for the chamber. One journeyman working in his shop, William Tuck, inscribed his initials on a label affixed to the interior of the desk for the president of the Senate to attest to his prominent role in its construction. A number of these furnishings, including the president's desk, are visible in the color photograph of the chamber.

John Shaw and the State House

John Shaw (1745-1829), the noted Annapolis cabinetmaker, more than any single person was responsible for the appearance of the exterior and interior of the State House from the 1770s to the first decades of the nineteenth century. He cared for the grounds, illuminated the State House for festive occasions, supplied furnishings, made emergency repairs, and undertook normal maintenance. There was very little he and the people he hired didn't do. When a new cellar door was called for, Shaw made it. When Joseph Clark, the contractor for the dome, needed a carpenter for the shell Shaw was hired. When Clark left the project, John Shaw took charge of overseeing the finishing touches of the interior plasterwork. In 1780, he even made "spitting boxes" for the Governor and Council, nine years before he installed pins in the same room for them to hand their hats.

The earliest accounting record of payments to John Shaw for work in the State House is in 1778, when he built shelves and partitions for this room and supplied the General Assembly with "two Mahogany Balloting Boxes." The last is in 1817 when one of his chores was to supply a "latch with 7 keys for the privy" for which he charged \$7.00

John Shaw, or craftsmen he trained, made most of the earliest furniture for the Senate and House of Delegates' Chambers although in November 1783, no one in Annapolis had enough time to make sufficient chairs for Congress. Six dozen "Windsor chairs" had to be rush-ordered from Baltimore.

The Senate was first to pay John Shaw to make individual desks for its members, but by 1807, the House also contracted with him for "the fitting up and repairing the House of Delegates Room" with the room to be "laid off in circular form, and . . . the [new] desks to be raised one above the other, as nearly like the room occupied by Congress as may be practicable." The desks Shaw provided remained in the State House until about 1835, when they were given to Baltimore cabinetmaker John Needles as partial payment for new furnishings.

His many years as the first superintendent of Buildings and Grounds did not make John Shaw a wealthy man. When he died in 1829, at the age of 84, he was highly esteemed, but not rich. The Maryland Gazette described him as "not only one of the oldest and [most] respectable inhabitants of this city . . . but also] one of the most useful of them. . . . He was gifted by nature with strength, as well as fortitude of mind, and possessed a degree of self-control which [he] rarely permitted . . . to be disturbed. Thus happily constituted, he pursued his way—content. . . . His whole conduct remained free from reproach and he descended into the grave in peace with the human family. . . . [having lived] a life characterized by industry, temperance, strict integrity, and punctual attention to religious duty. . . ."

ARTIFACTS CONTENT:**Furniture Label from the Shop of John Shaw**

Baltimore Museum of Art

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1556-154/157

Furniture label from the shop of John Shaw engraved by Thomas Sparrow (1744-after 1785), an Annapolis silversmith who also engraved plates for Maryland paper money and seals for several government offices.

Shaw Furniture Invoice, 1796-1797

Maryland State Archives

Invoice from shop of John Shaw for mahogany armchairs for the State House, August 3, 1796, paid February 20, 1797.

Armchairs, attributed to John Shaw (1745-1829), ca. 1797

Maryland Commission on Artistic Property

MdCAP 1199

Gift of John T. King, III, Virginia K Whittlesey, Joseph D. B. King and J. Sidney King, in memory of their parents Dr. John T. King, Jr. and Charlotte Baker King

MdCAP 573

Two of approximately thirty armchairs that Shaw made between 1796 and 1797 for the State House.

Desk, attributed to John Shaw (1745-1829), ca. 1797

Maryland Commission on Artistic Property

MdCAP 701

By November 1797, John Shaw had been paid for ten mahogany desks for senators and a desk for the Senate President. This desk is one of the many original Senate Chamber furnishings which have been returned, by gift or purchase, to the State House Collection.

Maryland State House, attributed to Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), 1789

Bond Collection

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 194-3

This engraving, attributed to Charles Willson Peale, was published in the February 1789 issue of the *Columbian Magazine*. In addition to the new State House with its recently completed dome, on the far left is the home of John Shaw. To the right of the State House are the Old Council Chamber and Ball Room built in 1718, the octagonal outdoor privy, known as the "temple," constructed in the 1780s and the Treasury Building built in 1729.

ARTIFACTS CONTENT:**Perspective Drawings of the Maryland State House by Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), 1788**

William Voss Elder Collection

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1051

These perspective drawings of the State House were made with the aid of a "drawing machine" by Charles Willson Peale on a visit to Annapolis in the summer of 1788. Peale intended to paint a panorama of the city as seen from the State House dome with a perspective view of the State House in the middle. He completed only the perspective view. The drawings are especially important because they indicated the colors of the State House and neighboring buildings.

Plasterer's Contract, July 24, 1792

Original, The John Work Garrett Collection of the Johns Hopkins University

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1556-148

Under the supervision of John Shaw, both the carpentry and the plaster work of the interior of the dome was begun in 1792, and completed by 1794. Thomas Dance, who signed the contract, was killed by a fall in 1793.

Drawing and Floor Plans, by Joseph Horatio Anderson (d. by 1781), 1772

The John Work Garrett Collection of the Johns Hopkins University

Facsimiles

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1556-109/111

These drawings were used by the building contractor, Charles Wallace, an Annapolis merchant. Wallace undertook the building of the State House to help his ailing firm through a severe cash flow problem. The 7,500 pounds sterling appropriation may have helped the business, but the building proved to be more of a headache that Wallace ever imagined. Shortly after the roof was completed it blew off in a violent storm. Not too many months later, the presence of British warships in the bay sent the workmen packing, many of whom never returned. It was not until the fall of 1779 that Wallace was ready to turn the building over to the legislature, seven years after the cornerstone was laid.

RAW CONTENT:

John Shaw: Shaw was a prominent citizen of Annapolis who is best remembered as a cabinetmaker. He was also an inventor, local assessor, undertaker, state armourer, merchant and City Councilman. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1745 and came to Annapolis in the early 1770's. He was the supervisor for the MSH from 1772 – 1783 - Shaw was placed in charge of providing the illumination for Washington's public dinner at the State House when Washington resigned his post as the Commander of the Continental Army.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Desk and chair

Enrico Liberti (1894-1979)

Mahogany, 1940

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-0531,-0569

In 1940, Baltimore cabinetmaker Enrico Liberti was commissioned to reproduce 23 mahogany arm chairs and 14 mahogany desks for the Old Senate Chamber using John Shaw's original 1797 design. Liberti's reproductions were part of a major renovation campaign in 1939-1940 in which the Chamber was furnished to look as it did in 1797. Today, the chamber is furnished with a combination of Shaw's original 1797 furniture and Liberti's 1940 reproductions.

II. Charles Willson Peale

RAW CONTENT:

Charles Willson Peale – native Marylander; artist; CWP mural started of city ; CWP invented Physiography Extending the Sphere

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Maryland State House

Attributed to Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) 1789

Bond Collection, Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 194-3

This engraving, attributed to Charles Willson Peale, was published in the February 1789 issue of the *Columbian Magazine*. In addition to the new State House with its recently completed dome, on the far left is the home of John Shaw. To the right of the State House is the Old Council Chamber and Ball Room built in 1718, the octagonal outdoor privy, known as the "public temple," constructed in the 1780s and the Treasury Building built in 1735.

Plan of the First Floor of the Maryland State House

Published in the *Columbian Magazine*, February 1789

Attributed to Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827)

Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1556-121/122

This plan of the first floor of the State House accompanied Charles Willson Peale's drawing in the February 1789 issue of the *Columbian Magazine*.

Elevation of the Maryland State House

Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), 1788

William Voss Elder Collection, Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1051

This perspective drawing of the State House was one of two drawings made with the aid of a “drawing machine” by Charles Willson Peale on a visit to Annapolis in the summer of 1788. Peale intended to paint a panorama of the city as seen from the State House dome with a perspective view of the State House in the middle. He completed only the perspective view. This drawing is especially important because it indicates the colors of the State House and neighboring buildings.

III. The domeRAW CONTENT:

Other visitors to the roof -View from the dome of City of Annapolis – as the eye of the city

Dr. Shippen took Jefferson and Madison up stairs to the dome to see the sights

Bronze statues of Peale coming down steps and Shaw kneeling to repair bottom step

3B Old Senate Committee Room: Crafting a New Nation 1776-1784

I. Portrait gallery

LABEL CONTENT:

Charles Willson Peale's Portraits of Early Governors

In 1823, Charles Willson Peale, by then living in Philadelphia, asked his friends in Annapolis to offer a petition on his behalf to Governor Samuel Stevens offering six portraits of Maryland's early governors in exchange for a full-length portrait of Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore. Peale considered the portrait to be an inspiration of his career as a painter. He also hoped this endeavor would make him "the founder of a collection of Portraits, which has the promise of becoming a rich and highly valuable Gallery of distinguished men elected to the highest office in a free Government."

Over the next year, Peale set about painting the new portraits based on original versions painted in the sitter's life-times either by himself, or his son Rembrandt. Unable to find any original images of Governors Thomas Sim Lee and John Henry, Peale substituted a portrait of Governor George Plater. The inclusion of a new life-portrait of Samuel Sprigg, governor from 1819-1823, added a seventh painting to Peale's initial proposal.

Peale delivered the seven portraits to Annapolis in 1824-1825, where they were displayed in the Assembly Rooms in City Hall. The portraits remained in the custody of the City of Annapolis until 1867 when Mayor Abram Claude authorized their transfer to the State of Maryland. The portraits have been on public display in the State House and Government House since then, and are the foundation for the tradition of displaying official governor's portraits that continues to the present day.

RAW CONTENT:

Gallery of Charles Willson Peale portraits – people who crafted America

Documentation by Charles Willson Peale of Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, and Tench Tilghman at Yorktown, 1784

Tench Tilghman - Most of the Tilghman family served the King, though not Tench. The Continental Congress recruited him to make peace with the Six Nations. Following his return from this mission, he enlisted in the Maryland Militia. His good service was rewarded with a promotion to General George Washington's Army where he was soon promoted to Washington's aide-de-camp. In 1781, Tench's moment of triumph came when Washington chose him to carry the surrender papers from Yorktown to Philadelphia.

Anne Catherine Green Widow of Jonas Green – 1st woman printer in US copy from NPG.

Portrait of Slave by Charles Willson Peale - Mamood

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown

Charles Willson Peale (1727-1841)

Oil on canvas, 1784

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-1120

In October 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, effectively ending the Revolutionary War. In enthusiastic response, the Maryland House of Delegates asked Governor Thomas Sim Lee to commission Maryland-born Charles Willson Peale to paint a portrait of colonial America's hero, General Washington. Lee wrote to Peale in December 1781: "The Honorable Delegates of Maryland have Unanimously resolved to have the Portrait of His Excellency General Washington, at full length, to be placed in their House, in grateful remembrance of that most Illustrious Character." (Letter from Governor Thomas Sim Lee to Charles Willson Peale, December 7, 1781; reprinted in *The Selected Papers of Charles Willson Peale and His Family*, vol. 1).

Peale waited three years to complete the commission, eventually producing a large-scale painting that exceeded the delegates' request. In addition to painting Washington, Peale added two figures to the foreground of his composition. The first, to Washington's immediate left, is the Marquis de Lafayette, who represents the pivotal alliance between colonial America and France that led to victory in the Revolution; The second figure Peale added is Lieutenant Colonel Tench Tilghman, a Marylander who served as Washington's military secretary and aide-de-camp, who is shown in profile.

The portrait setting includes important historical details. The background shows Yorktown from the southeast. In the left middle ground are soldiers of various nationalities carrying flags. On the far left is a French soldier, holding the royal Bourbon flag of France, with its white field and fleur-de-lis. In the center of the group are two British soldiers with their flags cased. To the right is an American soldier holding the regimental standard, identifiable with its red and white stripes and a blue field on which is painted an American eagle. As Peale described the setting:

"I have made in the distance a View of York & Gloster with the British army surrendering in the order in which it happened. And in the middle distance I have introduced French & American officers with Colours of their nations displayed, between them the British with their Colours cased. These figures seem to tell the story at first sight, which the more distant could not so readily do" (Letter from Charles Willson Peale to William Paca, September 7, 1784; reprinted in *The Selected Papers of Charles Willson Peale and His Family*, Vol. 1)

II. Declaration of Independence

LABEL CONTENT:

Declaring Independence

On June 28, 1776, Maryland instructed its four delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence from Great Britain. Maryland's congressional delegates were: William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Samuel Chase.

A week later on July 6, 1776, Maryland issued its own separate declaration of independence using language drafted by Charles Carroll of Carrollton on July 3. With independence came the need to create a state government made legitimate by a written constitution. In August 1776, Maryland's first Constitutional Convention convened in Annapolis. The first item of business was to draft a bill of rights which in its final version contained 42 provisions setting forth the responsibilities of government and the rights of its citizens.

The first official issue of the Declaration of Independence of the United States with the names of the signers was printed for the Congress in January 1777. It was printed in Baltimore by Mary Katherine Goddard and delivered to the Congress, which was also meeting in Baltimore.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

The Declaration of Independence

Printed by Mary Katherine Goddard (1738-1816) on January 18, 1777
Maryland State Archives,
MSA S 997-15

RAW CONTENT:

In 1776 Maryland adopted a declaration of rights and a state constitution and sent soldiers and supplies to aid the war for independence; supposedly the high quality of its regular "troops of the line" earned Maryland its nickname, the Old Line State.

III. Treaty of Paris

LABEL CONTENT:

The Treaty of Paris at Annapolis

On January 14, 1784, the Treaty of Paris was ratified by the Congress of the United States, while they met in the Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House. The Treaty formally ended the Revolutionary War and established the United States as a free and independent nation. The Treaty's ratification in Annapolis made Maryland's capital the first peace-time capital of the United States.

The Treaty had been signed by delegates from the United States and Great Britain, as well as France and Spain, in Paris on September 3, 1783. Congress' assent was required for the Treaty to take effect, and delegates were called to convene at Annapolis, then serving as the nation's capital, in November 26, 1783. The minimum number of state delegations (nine? Seven?) required to conduct business did not arrive in the State House until December 13. On that day, the Treaty was referred to a committee chaired by Thomas Jefferson.

In early January, 1784, Congress began to consider voting on ratification with the delegates already present. Within a few days, a quorum was reached, and Congress voted unanimously to ratify the Treaty. Congress then ordered “That a proclamation be immediately issued, notifying the states of the union” that the Treaty had been signed.

RAW CONTENT:

Treaty of Paris – crafting peace 1784

Congress convened at the Maryland State House on January 14, 1784 to ratify the Treaty of Paris, officially establishing the United States as an independent and sovereign Nation, ending the American Revolutionary War.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Broadside announcing ratification of the Treaty of Paris

John Dunlap, printer, 1784
Collection of the Maryland State Archives
Treaty of Paris Broadside Collection,
MSA SC 5787

John Dunlap, Congress’ official printer, printed the broadside seen here, which was “to notify... all the good citizens of these United States” that the Treaty had been ratified, and that American independence was assured. The proclamation was also to serve as official notice of the Treaty, a task of particular importance in an era when communication was limited. Of the thirteen copies Dunlap printed—one for each state—only a handful are known to survive today. This copy, held at the Maryland State Archives, bears the embossed seal of Congress and the signatures of Thomas Mifflin, president of Congress, and Charles Thomson, secretary.

Map of North America

John Mitchell 1756
Huntingfield Collection,
Maryland State Archives
MSA S 19970-15—12/1

After ratifying the Treaty of Paris, Congress also directed that each state inform its people that the Treaty had been ratified, and that peace was at hand. Thus, four days later, Governor William Paca gave a proclamation informing the people of Maryland that the Treaty had been ratified. Paca asked that “all the good citizens of this state...observe, and carry into effect” the Treaty’s requirements-to properly live as citizens of the new republic.

In the colonial period, “broadside” provided inexpensive information and entertainment to the public. Broadside were a single sheet of paper that generally contained print on one side only.

IV. Preparation for Washington’s Resignation – crafting the soldier/citizen idiom

LABEL CONTENT:

Congress at Annapolis, November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784

Having been forced from Philadelphia and Princeton by the rioting of unpaid Continental soldiers and invited by the city fathers to make its permanent home in Annapolis, Congress convened at the Maryland State House on November 26, 1783.

By 1783, the prestige of the ineffectual Congress of the Confederation had declined to such an extent that most states no longer bothered to send their best men to represent them, and those appointed often neglected to attend. The delegates of only nine states were present in Annapolis in December. Two of the states had only one representative, and so could not vote. Despite this, the meeting of the Fifth Congress of the Confederation is notable for hosting some of the most pivotal events of the new country’s formation.

It was in December of 1783 that the Congress at Annapolis hosted one of the most significant events in history of the United States. George Washington arrived in Annapolis on December 19 and immediately wrote to Congress to inquire as to how they actually wanted him to resign his commission. A committee of Congress devised a ceremony that took place at noon on December 23. In the intervening days, Washington was feted with celebratory events, including a gala ball on the night before the ceremony in the hall of the State House.

On the day of the ceremony, Washington arrived at the State House where Congress was meeting in the Old Senate Chamber. When he entered the Chamber, the members remained seated, covered (with their hats on). In a short, emotional speech, Washington resigned his commission and then bowed to Congress. Only then did the members rise and remove their hats in a gesture of respect. He then left the Chamber and rode to Mt. Vernon to join his family for Christmas dinner.

The Treaty of Paris formally ending the War for American Independence was signed on September 3, 1783, in Paris, and ratified by Congress on January 14, 1784, in the Senate Chamber in the State House. In May 1784, Thomas Jefferson was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to serve as the nation's foreign ambassador to France, where he would join Benjamin Franklin and John Adams as they sought to establish treaties of commerce with each European nation.

LABEL CONTENT:

George Washington's Resignation Speech

On December 23, 1783, George Washington came before Congress, then meeting in the Old Senate Chamber of the State House and resigned his commission as commander in chief of the Continental Army. By turning over the power of the military to the civilian government – and retiring to private life at Mt. Vernon – Washington set an important precedent that is still at the foundation of our government to this day.

This is a facsimile copy of the original draft from which Washington read his speech to Congress. The original will be on display in the State House as soon as an appropriate case can be made for it. Its display will be part of a complete reinstallation of the exhibits in the State House currently being developed by the Maryland State Archives.

The Maryland State Archives acquired Washington's personal copy of his speech in 2007 along with a letter written by James McHenry to his future wife, the most descriptive first-person account of this historic event.

LABEL CONTENT:

George Washington's letter to Congress announced his arrival in Annapolis and asked "in what manner it will be most proper to offer my resignation." Congress immediately resolved that "his Excellency the Commander-[?] in[-?] Chief be admitted to a Public Audience, on Tuesday next [December 23] at twelve o'clock," and referred his letter to a committee chaired by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson and fellow committee members Elbridge Gerry and James McHenry devised a ceremony and composed a response that President Thomas Mifflin would deliver on behalf of Congress.

ARTIFACTS CONTENT:

Letter to Congress, December 20, 1783

National Archives and Records Service [?]
Maryland State Archives,
MdHR G 1556-104

George Washington's Commission as General and Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United Colonies

Library of Congress
Photograph
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-6

Dated June 19, 1775, the Commission was signed by John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.

Washington, Lafayette, and Tilghman at Yorktown by Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), 1784

Painted for the Maryland State House and first hung by the artist in the fall of 1784 in the old House of Delegates Chamber, this portrait now hangs above the fireplace in the adjoining old Senate Chamber.

After resigning his Commission as Commander-in-Chief, George Washington probably gave this draft of his remarks to the Committee on which James McHenry served. McHenry kept it among his papers. Another copy, in the hand of Washington's secretary David Humphreys, is in the Library of Congress.

Draft of Washington's Remarks

Original, private collection.
Facsimile
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-105

Edwin White's painting depicts even fewer people in attendance at the ceremony than Trumbull's, although he does show the room correctly. Neither painting includes the two Congressmen, James McHenry and James Tilton, who provided the most detailed contemporary accounts of the event. From McHenry and Tilton it is known that the room was packed with Congressmen, members of the Maryland legislature, the Governor's Council, City Officials, Washington's aides, and guests, including the former Proprietor of Maryland, Henry Harford, and his brother-in-law, former governor Sir Robert Eden. The room was so crowded that Washington withdrew to this Committee Room while the "company" left. After a few moments, when the Chamber was at last clear except for Congressmen (21 or 22) and clerks, "the General then stepped into the room again, bid every member [of Congress] fairwell[?sp.] and rode off from the door [of the State House], intent upon eating his c[?]hristmas dinner at home."

General George Washington Resigning his Commission as Commaner-in-Chief of the Army, 1824, by John Trumbull (1756-1843)

Architect of the U.S. Capitol
neg. no. 34256.
Photograph
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-2

Contemporary Key to John Trumbull's Painting of Washington Resigning his Commission

Architect of the U.S. Capitol Photograph
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-152

Washington Resigning his Commission, by Edwin White (1817-1877), 1859

Maryland Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1112.
Photograph
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-8

Commissioned for the State House, it now hangs above the first floor landing on the marble staircase leading to the second floor.

Contemporary Key to Edwin White's Painting of Washington Resigning his Commission

Maryland Commission on Artistic Property
Photograph
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-107

Following a carefully devised protocol worked out by Thomas Jefferson and his Committee, the ceremony of Washington's resignation as Commander-in-Chief began at twelve noon on December 23, 1783. James Tilton, member of Congress from Delaware, described the scene:

"Tuesday morning, Congress met and took their seats in order, all covered. At twelve o'clock the General was introduced by the secretary, and seated opposite to the president, until the throng, that filled all the avenues, were so disposed of so as to behold the solemnity. The ladies occupied the gallery as full as it would hold, the Gentlemen crowded [?] below stairs. Silence ordered, by the Secretary, the General rose and bowed to c[C?]ongress, who uncovered, but did not bow. He then delivered his speech, and at the close of it drew his commission from his bosem [?] and handed it to the president. The president replied in a set speech. The General bowed again to C[?]ongress. They uncovered and the General retired. After a little pause until the company withdrew, Congress adjourned. The General then stepped into the room again, bid every member farewell and rode off from the door, intent upon eating his c[?]Christmas at home. Many of the spectators particularly the fair ones, shed tears on this solemn and affecting occasion."

Protocol for Washington's Resignation

Photograph
Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-140

The "order for the publick audience of general Washington" as published for the first time in the Secret Journals of the Acts and Proceedings of Congress, 1821.

While Elbridge Gerry, Congressman from Massachusetts, drafted the order of the ceremony, Thomas Jefferson composed President Mifflin's response to Washington's remarks. Fellow committeeman, James McHenry from Maryland made this copy from which Mifflin may have read.

McHenry carefully composed his account of Washington's resignation in this letter to his future wife. In an effort to polish his prose, he omitted some details from the copy he sent Peggy, including the observation that "the doors of Congress were thrown open at twelve o'clock when the governor and his council [arrived]." Otherwise McHenry made little substantial change to what remains as the most dramatic account of the resignation ceremony. Ironically, neither of the great historical paintings of the event includes McHenry or Governor Paca's council.

Letter of James McHenry to Peggy Caldwell, December 23, 1783

On loan to the State of Maryland through the Maryland Historical Society
SC 1556-1-159

James McHenry (ca. 1752-1816) by Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), 1778

Original, private collection.

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

Margaret Caldwell (1762-1833) by Charles Willson Peale (1741-1823), ca. 1783

Original, private collection

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

On January 16, 1784, Molly Ridout, wife of an official in the old proprietary government, wrote her mother in England, dispatching her letter by one of the couriers entrusted with a copy of the ratified Treaty of Peace. Molly had attended Washington's resignation, "with several others," on December 23. She told her mother that "The Congress were[?] assembled in the State House. Both Houses of Assembly were present as spectators, the gallery full of Ladies. The General seemed so much affected himself, that every body felt for him. He addressed Congress in a short speech but very affecting. Many tears were shed . . . I think the World never produced a greater Man & very few so good."

Letter of Mrs. Molly Ridout to her Mother, January 16, 1784

Photograph

Maryland State Archives

MdHF G 1556-146

On December 24, 1783, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Governor of Virginia about the "affecting scene of yesterday" and of his "extreme anxiety at our present critical situation." Jefferson feared that there would not be enough Congressmen present to permit ratification of the Treaty of Paris and, if the treaty was not returned ratified in time, Britain might choose to deny its validity.

Thomas Jefferson, attributed to John Trumbull (1756-1843)

Original, Virginia Historical Society

Photograph

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1156-145

Speech in vitrine

Washington's Resignation Speech (Final Draft)

Annapolis, December 23, 1783

The great events on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and [&] of presenting myself before {Congress} them, to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring {request permission to retire} from the service of my country.

Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States, of becoming a respectable Nation {as well as in the contemplation of our prospect of National happiness}, I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence --- a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our Cause, the support of the supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The successful termination of the War has verified the most sanguine expectations- and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my Countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous Contest.

While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge in this place the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the Gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. -- It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. -- Permit me Sir, to recommend in particular those, who have continued in service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice & patronage of Congress.--

I consider it an indispensable duty {duty} to close this last solemn act of my Official life, by commending the Interests of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendance {direction} of them, to his holy keeping.--

Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, -- and bidding an affectionate {a final} farewell to this August body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer {today deliver?} my Commission, and take my {ultimate} leave of all the employments of public life.

Area 3 - Old Senate Chamber: Crafting a New Nation 1776-1784

°See bronze of horse and slave out window

I. Washington's resignation

RAW CONTENT:

Washington's resignation was delivered at a meeting of the Continental Congress, which convened in Annapolis on November 26. The solemn ceremony is well documented in first person accounts as well as in the published rules of the ceremony, which stated that, "the President and members are to be seated and covered...The General is to be seated with an aide on each side, standing...the General is to arise, and address Congress...the President is to deliver the answer of Congress...the General...is to bow to Congress, which they are to return by uncovering without bowing." The stiff formality and deference were designed to re-emphasize the supremacy of the civilian representatives of the people over the military. Despite this formality, one witness, James McHenry, reported that "the spectators all wept, and there was hardly a member of Congress who did not drop tears."

LABEL CONTENT:

In March of 1784, Charles Willson Peale wrote the President of Congress, Thomas Mifflin, that he had intended to come to Annapolis to make "a capital historical picture [of] . . . Gen. Washington taking leave of Congress . . . but alas my finances at present will not permit of such an undertaking." Perhaps Peale hoped for a commission from Congress, but none ever came, and he abandoned his project altogether. The first artist to attempt to reconstruct the scene was Robert Edge Pine not long after the event. Unfortunately Pine's large canvas was destroyed in a fire in 1803 and there is no surviving record of its appearance. John Trumbull completed the earliest extant painting of the ceremony in 1824, after taking considerable pains to determine the principal people in attendance, and to secure their likenesses. For some unknown reason, Trumbull chose to reverse the room, both in his preliminary sketches and in the final painting. Trumbull also included a number of people who were not there, such as Martha Washington and James Madison.

In Grateful Remembrance

When the Maryland Senate first met in the Old Senate Chamber, ca. 1779, they found a chamber which was simple but elegant. Although the building itself was not yet complete, it appears that the chambers were continuously used until the Old Senate Chamber was turned over to the Continental Congress for their use in 1783-1784.

Washington's Uniform

Believing that "nothing adds more to the appearance of a man, than dress," George Washington took pains to clothe himself in a fashion appropriate to his rank.

According to family tradition, Washington wore the original of this uniform, now in the Smithsonian, when he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief. The replica, seen here near the spot where Washington stood, is closely patterned after the original, and donated to the State of Maryland by the Maryland Society of Senates Past. It was produced by Mr. J. Luther Sowers of the Anvil Amrs, of Mr. Donald Kloster, Associate Curator of Military History at the Smithsonian. Washington's head is modeled on the life bust by Jean-Antoine Houdon made in 1785, and is a gift of The Maryland Colonial Society. The epaulets and sword, given by the Maryland Society of Senates Past and the Daughters of the Colonial Wars, duplicate those Washington wears in the Charles Willson Peale portrait, Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman, which hangs nearby over the Senate Chamber fireplace (visible only from the main hallway entrance). Washington was bare-headed during the ceremonies. Congressmen kept their hats on, to symbolize the supremacy of civil over military authority, but when "the General rose and bowed," they responded by momentarily removing their hats in a formal gesture of respect.

The uniform is on a mannequin specially constructed by Susan Wallace of the Smithsonian, who also painted the head. The mannequin is a gift to the State of Maryland by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter One, and the Maryland Society of Senates Past.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Washington's Uniform and Mannequin

Gift of the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter One, and the Maryland Society of Senates Past.

Commission on Artistic Property

MdCAP 808

President's Desk by John Shaw (1741-1827), 1797

Commission Artistic Property
MdCAP 749

Desk made by John Shaw for the President of the Maryland Senate. Although a commission for a President's desk is not recorded in the council Proceedings, Shaw was paid for "10 Mahogany Desks for the use of the Senate & 1 neat Mahogany [desk] for the president . . ."

President's Armchair attributed to John Shaw (1741-1827), 1797

Gift of the Maryland Society of the Colonial Dames of America,
Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 748

Armchair made by John Shaw for the President of the Maryland Senate. This chair was included in Shaw's commission to make "twenty four handsome commodious chairs to be made for the accommodation of the Senate amongst which shall be a presidential chair."

Desks, attributed to John Shaw (1741-1827), 1797

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 591, 46, 540

Three of the original set of desks made by John Shaw for the Old Senate Chamber.

Armchairs, attributed to John Shaw (1741-1827), 1797

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1200

Gift of Mrs. Laurence Thompson in memory of her grandfather, Dennis Clause Thompson
MdCAP 607.

Two of the original set of approximately thirty armchairs made by John Shaw for the Maryland State House.

Reproduction Desks and Armchairs, attributed to Enrico Liberti

Commission on Artistic Property
Maryland State House collection

John Eager Howard (1752-1827), by Charles Willson Peale, (1741- 1827)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1053

William Smallwood (1732-1792), by Charles Willson Peale, (1741- 1827)

Presented by the city of Annapolis, 1867
Commission on Artistic Property
MdCap 1054

John Hoskins Stone (1750-1804), by Charles Willson Peale, (1741- 1827), 1824

Presented by the city of Annapolis, 1867
Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1057

Samuel Sprigg (ca. 1783-1855), by Charles Willson Peale, (1741- 1827), 1824

Presented by the city of Annapolis, 1867
Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1055

Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown, by Charles Willson Peale, (1741- 1827), 1784

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1120

William Paca (1740-1799), by Charles Willson Peale, (1741- 1827), 1823

Presented by the city of Annapolis, 1867
Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1056

Bronze of Washington - George Washington's Uniform and Mannequin

Gifts of the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter One; the Maryland Colonial Society; the Daughters of Colonial Wars, and the Maryland Society of Senates Past, 1983

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-0808

Believing that "nothing adds more to the appearance of a man, than dress," George Washington took pains to clothe himself in a fashion appropriate to his rank. According to family tradition, Washington wore the original of this uniform, now in the Smithsonian Institution, when he resigned his commission as commander-in-chief. Washington's head is modeled on the life bust by Jean-Antoine Houdon made in 1785. Washington was bareheaded during the resignation ceremony. Congressmen kept their hats on, to symbolize the supremacy of civil over military authority, but when "the General rose and bowed," they responded by momentarily removing their hats in a formal gesture of respect.

Desk and chair

Enrico Liberti (1894-1979)

Mahogany, 1940

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-XXXX, XXXX

In 1940, Baltimore cabinetmaker Enrico Liberti was commissioned to reproduce 23 mahogany arm chairs and 14 mahogany desks for the Old Senate Chamber using John Shaw's original 1797 design. Prior to this commission, an assortment of relics and furniture were displayed in the Old Senate Chamber as a hallowed shrine to Washington's resignation in 1783. Liberti's reproductions were part of a major renovation campaign in 1939-1940 in which the Chamber was furnished to look as it did in 1797. Today, the chamber is furnished with a combination of Shaw's original 1797 furniture and Liberti's 1940 reproductions.

Move Charles Willson Peale's William Pitt back to this room over the fireplace

William Pitt, first earl of Chatham, was engaged in a heated debate with Charles Lennox (1735-1806), third duke of Richmond, on the subject of the American revolt against Great Britain. As he was forcefully making his argument, Pitt suddenly collapsed, falling into the arms of his colleagues, and he died several weeks later.

James McHenry's letter to Peggy Coldwell on desk

II. Maryland Congress met here (label)

III. Continental Congress met here (label)

3A outside OSC: Restoration of Old Senate Chamber 1776-1784

I. Restoration of the Old Senate Chamber

LABEL CONTENT:

'Above ground archaeology' is revealing the architectural history of one of America's most important rooms

In 2007, in order to determine the cause of the failure of plaster in the Old Senate Chamber, a nationally-known architectural restoration firm, The John Greenwalt Lee Company, was hired to investigate the room and make recommendations for its repair. This initial investigation led to a much broader examination of the original architectural fabric of the room and how it has been changed over the past 225 years. This work has given us a much better idea of how the room looked when George Washington resigned his commission there in 1783.

It was determined that the failing plaster was caused primarily by modern paint applied over early 20th century plaster, plus ambient moisture in the room. All of the plaster was removed, leaving the original 18th century brick walls exposed. Under the plaster, the Lee team has found "ghosts" of earlier architectural elements such as cornices, wainscot, and chair rails. Several of these details match evidence found in early sketches and period descriptions of the room. Further analysis has uncovered original bricks, mortar, and beams.

Once all of the evidence is revealed, and the necessary repairs are made, decisions will be made as to which elements of the room will be restored in order to most effectively—and accurately—interpret the Old Senate Chamber. This process could take a couple of years to complete. In the meantime, visitors will be able to see the original 18th century bricks and mortar of this important room.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Colonial Day Celebration in the Rotunda

E.H. Pickering
May 15, 1928
Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 1545-0808

Costumed interpreters and visitors fill the rotunda in a reenactment of the celebratory ball held in the State House the evening before George Washington [in center] resigned his commission on December 24, 1783.

Stereographic View of the Senate Chamber

Photographer unknown
1868
Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 182-01-0501

The oldest view of the room used by the Maryland Senate from 1779 until 1905 documents elements of the original eighteenth-century architecture, including the visitors' gallery and decorative plaster cornices that were removed in 1876-1877. This is one of two known photographs of the Old Senate Chamber prior to the Victorian-era renovations, and is an invaluable resource for the ongoing work in this room.

The Old Senate Chamber

E.H. Pickering
1925
Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 1804-02-0284

After completing the construction of the 1902-1905 annex, Baltimore architects Baldwin and Pennington oversaw renovations in the Old Senate Chamber to return the room to a colonial appearance. This work was completed in 1906 and included the installation of a new visitor's gallery, fireplace, dais and flooring, a recreated false door, and ornamental plasterwork. In an effort to memorialize George Washington's resignation in this space, the portrait of Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman and framed transcriptions of speeches given by Washington and Thomas Mifflin were on display, and the room was furnished with an eclectic array of furnishings and relics associated—often mistakenly—with the first president.

TIMELINE CONTENT:**The Building**

Shaw furnishings
Room restored 1906, 1948, 2007
GW resignation speech given here

The State

MD Commission of Shaw flag

The Nation

Treaty of Paris ratification

Area 4 - Rotunda: Ratifying the Constitution 1788-1812

I. In Order to Form a More Perfect Union: Maryland the Seventh State

LABEL CONTENT:

A. When In The Course of Human Events

On June 28, 1776, Maryland finally instructed its delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence from Great Britain. A week later, Maryland issued its own separate declaration of independence. With independence came the need to create a state government made legitimate by a written constitution. In August 1776, Maryland's first Constitutional Convention convened in Annapolis. The first item of business was to draft a bill of rights which in its final version contained 42 provisions setting forth the responsibilities of government and the rights of its citizens.

Between 1776 and 1787, the 13 original states joined together in a loose national alliance, but by 1785 it was apparent to many that their common cause required a stronger federal system. This system had its beginnings in 1785 with the regional cooperation established by the Mount Vernon Compact and in the subsequent Annapolis Convention which called for a meeting of all the states in Philadelphia in 1787.

B. Declaring Independence: June-July 1776

Maryland declared independence from Great Britain on July 6, 1776, using language drafted by Charles Carroll of Carrollton on July 3. The first official issue of the Declaration of Independence of the United States with the names of the signers was printed for Congress, then meeting in Baltimore. By Maryland Katherine Goddard in January 1777.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Maryland's Declaration of Independence

Maryland State Archives
MdHR 4560-1

Goddard's Printing of the Declaration of Independence, January 1777

Maryland State Archives
RB 2/2/19

LABEL CONTENT:

C. A Bill of Rights and Constitution for Maryland: September 17, 1776

On September 17, 1776 11 years to the day before the U. S. Constitution was signed, the Convention charged with drafting a Constitution for Maryland submitted its work to the people. On November 19, 1776, the Maryland Gazette (Baltimore) began printing the full text of the final version of Maryland's Declaration of Rights and Form of Government.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Facsimile of Draft of Article 4 of the Declaration of Rights, 4" x 8"

Maryland State Archives
MdHR 4558-40

Maryland Gazette (Baltimore), November 19, 1776 (15" x 18")

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Facsimile of Early Draft of the Maryland Constitution (13" x 8")

Maryland State Archives
MdHR 4558-32

LABEL CONTENT:

D. Regional Cooperation: March 1785

Commissioners from Maryland and Virginia met at Mount Vernon in March 1785 to discuss fishing rights and the regulation of commerce on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The result was the Compact of 1785, the first mutually binding agreement of its kind between two states. Both states declared that their waterways would be "forever considered as a common Highway Free for Use and Navigation of any vessel belonging" to the other. At the same time, the Commissioners invited Pennsylvania to join in an effort to improve the navigation of the Potomac River to its headwaters, arguing that such a project would "have for their object the interest and convenience of [Pennsylvania's] Citizens and those of the other States in the Union."

ARTIFACT CONTENT:**Facsimile of Original Laws of Maryland, 1785, Chapter 1 (18 6/16" x 14")**

Maryland State Archives
MdHR 6-25

Facsimile of Letter from Commissioners of Virginia and Maryland to John Dickenson, President of the State of Pennsylvania, March 28, 1785 (15" x 9")

Maryland State Archives
MdHR 4604-127

Facsimile from the Maryland Journal (Baltimore), September 19, 1786 (8" x 11")

Enoch Pratt Free Library

George Washington often stayed at Mann's Tavern when visiting Annapolis, seen in the center of this detail from a mid-nineteenth century lithograph. Mann's was the site of the Annapolis convention in September 1786 and the center of festivities in the capital following ratification of the U. S. Constitution in April 1788.

Detail from Bird's-Eye-View of Annapolis, CA, 1858, by Edward Sachse (1804-1873)

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 907

From the east porch of his home on the Potomac River, George Washington could look across to the Maryland Shore. Washington's desire to improve the navigation of the river led him to invite the Maryland and Virginia Commissioners to meet at Mount Vernon in March 1785.

Mount Vernon East Front, by unknown artist, ca. 1792

Mt. Vernon Ladies Association
MdHR G 1796-A-176

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, (1737-1832) by James Barton Longacre (1794-1869) after Robert Field

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1796-A-165

Signer of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Senator

William Paca, (1740-1799) by Peter Maverick (1780-1831) from James Barton Longacre after John Singleton Copley

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1796-A-163

Signer of the Declaration of Independence, co-author of Bill of Rights

Samuel Chase, (1741-1811) by James Barton Longacre (1794-1869) after John Wesley Jarvis

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1796-A-162

Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court

Thomas Stone, (1743-1787) by James Barton Longacre (1794-1869) after Robert Edge Pine

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1796-A-164

Signer of the Declaration of Independence, member of Congress

Matthew Tilghman, (1717/18-1790) by Katherine Walton

Commission of Artistic Property
MdHR G 1545-1003

Chairman of the Convention which drafted Maryland's first Constitution

Thomas Johnson, (1732-1819) by Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdHR G 1545-1119

First Governor of the State of Maryland, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

Mary Katherine Goddard, (1736-1816) by unknown artist

Rhode Island Historical Society
 MdHR G 1796-A-182
 Baltimore Postmistress
 Printer of the Declaration of Independence

John Hanson, (1721-1783) by Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827)

Independence National Historical Park
 MdHR G 1614-27
 First President of the United States in Congress Assembled

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, (1723-1790) by Albert Rosenthal (1863-1934)

Maryland State Archives
 MdHR G 1796-A-89
 Delegate to Conference at Mt. Vernon and Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia

II. Ratification of US Constitution by MarylandLABEL CONTENT:**In Order to Form a More Perfect Union:****Maryland's Ratification of the United States Constitution**

In May 1787, James McHenry, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll, John Francis Mercer, and Luther Martin were commissioned as Maryland's delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. On September 17 of that year the U. S. Constitution was signed by 38 delegates. Maryland's five delegates to Philadelphia were requested to appear before the House of Delegates in November to report on the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention.

As news of the proposed Constitution spread through the state, Maryland citizens began debating the merits of the new form of government. Public debates pitted the "Federalists," those who favored adoption of the Constitution without amendment, against the "Anti-Federalists," those who were either opposed to ratification altogether or who favored immediate amendments.

Seventy-four delegates to Maryland's Ratification Convention met in the House of Delegates Chamber of the State House from April 21-28, 1788. Maryland became the seventh state to ratify, giving a much needed boost to the movement for adoption of the Constitution by the remaining states.

On May 26, 1787, James McHenry, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll, John Francis Mercer, and Luther Martin were commissioned as Maryland's delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

Daniel Carroll was president of the Senate, Luther Martin was attorney general, and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was comptroller. John Francis Mercer, a former member of the Annapolis area. James McHenry, formerly a member of the House of Delegates, was a Baltimore merchant. Carroll and Jenifer were clearly in favor of a stronger national government; Martin and Mercer were opposed. McHenry attempted to mediate between the two sides.

In the end, by careful compromise and a willingness on the part of the majority to accept less than what they really wanted, the Philadelphia convention produced a document of amazing resilience and durability that fell short in only one respect. It lacked a bill of rights.

In a letter to James Madison not long after the Annapolis convention adjourned, George Washington pleaded for a new and stronger federal government. "The consequences of a lax, or inefficient government, are too obvious to be dwelt on.—Thirteen Sovereignties pulling against each other and all tugging the federal head, will soon bring ruin on the whole."

LABEL CONTENT:**A. First Printing of the U. S. Constitution in Maryland: September 22, 1787**

On September 17, 1787, the U. S. Constitution was signed in Philadelphia by 38 delegates. (George Read signed for the absent John Dickinson, making the total number of signatures 39.) That evening, George Washington recorded in his diary that he retired to "meditate on the momentous work."

The public first learned the details of the proposed Constitution on September 19 when it was printed in a Philadelphia newspaper. Other printings appeared shortly thereafter. The Baltimore Maryland Gazette and General Advertiser published the Constitution as a broadside on September 22, and the other Maryland newspapers followed with full printings in their regular issues.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Facsimile of Maryland Gazette & Extraordinary (Baltimore), September 22, 1787

Collection of Stephen and Harriett Goldman

LABEL CONTENT:

B. The Delegates' Report

On November 23, 1787, Maryland's five delegates to Philadelphia were requested to appear before the House of Delegates the following Thursday to report on the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention.

Initially only McHenry and Martin spoke. The House Journal does not reveal what happened, except to indicate that two speeches that totaled less than an hour developed into a two-day event. To counter objections and concerns raised by the House, James Mc Henry and Daniel Carroll read (without permission) two speeches by Benjamin Franklin, given in Philadelphia, which eloquently pleaded for adoption of the constitution.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Facsimile of Votes and Proceedings of the House of Delegates, November Session 1787

Maryland State Law Library

LABEL CONTENT:

C. We the Delegates . . . Having Fully Considered

In late November 1787, the Maryland Legislature set the first week in April 1788 as the time for elections to a convention in Annapolis charged with considering the Constitution.

As news of the proposed Constitution spread through the state, Maryland citizens began debating the merits of the new form of government. Through the winter of 1787-1788, the arguments grew more heated. By the time of the election, vehement handbills circulated deploring the Constitution's lack of a bill of rights. Despite Washington's fears to the contrary, Maryland proved a strong Federalist state. Only 12 out of 76 men elected to the ratifying convention could be called Anti-Federalist, and their principal goal was to amend the Constitution, not defeat it.

Maryland became the seventh state to ratify, giving a much needed boost to the movement for adoption of the Constitution.

Seventy-four delegates to Maryland's Ratification Convention met in the House of Delegates chamber of the State House (the front, left corner of the building as seen in this watercolor) from April 21-28, 1788.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Maryland State House, by Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892), ca. 1830

From the private collection of Albert H. Small

MdHR D 1973

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1556-21

"Unite or Die" Cartoon from the Maryland Journal (Baltimore), April 25, 1788

This Enoch Pratt Free Library

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1796-A-15

"Unite or Die" cartoon urging the Maryland Convention to ratify the Constitution was based on a segmented snake design used first by Benjamin Franklin in 1754.

Cartoon of Pillars from the Massachusetts Gazette (Boston), May 9, 1788.

Massachusetts Historical Society

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR 1796-A-150

A number of newspapers carried this cartoon, adding a new pillar each time a state ratified the Constitution.

Alexander Contee Hanson (1749-1806), by Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de St. Menim (1770-1852)

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Facsimile

Maryland State Archives

MdHR G 1796-A-179

Hanson, a judge of the General Court, wrote under the pseudonym "Aristides" in support of ratification of the U. S. Constitution.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832), by Thomas Sully (1783-1872)

Commission on Artistic Property

MdHR G 1545-1114

Carroll was defeated in the Anne Arundel County election for the Ratification Convention.

John Francis Mercer (1759-1821), by unknown artist

Commission on Artistic Property

MdHR G 1545-1039

Mercer's advocacy of a bill of rights won him a seat from Anne Arundel County in the Ratification Convention.

Jeremiah Townley Chase (1748-1828), by Joseph Wood (ca. 1778-1830)

Commission on Artistic Property

MdHR G 1545-1110

Chase agreed with his cousin Samuel that the proposed Constitution did not address the rights of the people.

LABEL CONTENT:**D. The Seventh State to Ratify**

The official proceedings of the Ratification Convention reflect nothing of the efforts of the minority to discuss amendments to the Constitution. Another clerk was hired by the Federalists to record the debates in great detail. A prospectus was even published in the newspapers, but because only the proponents of amendments spoke at any length, the project was deliberately sidetracked to prevent furthering the cause of the minority. On April 26, the question was called and 63 members cast their vote for ratification. A committee was then formed to consider amendments, but the majority again had second thoughts and decided to adjourn on April 28th without hearing the minority report.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:**The Maryland Federalist**

Scale model by Lewis A. Beck, Jr., assisted by Charles O. Hacker,

Colan D. Ratliff and Margaret B. Beck, 1982

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1982

The ratification of the Constitution in 1788 was celebrated throughout the country. In Baltimore, over 3,000 men of every trade and profession marched through the city with floats and banners proclaiming their hopes for economic security under the new government. The centerpiece of the parade was the 15-foot ship of state, Federalist, with her seven sails symbolizing Maryland's position as the seventh state to ratify.

One month after the ratification parade in Baltimore City, Capt. Joshua Barney set sail in the ship Federalist bound for Mount Vernon. The voyage down the Chesapeake and up the Potomac River took him only a week and, on June 9, Barney presented the miniature ship to George Washington as a gift from Baltimore merchants as a token of their esteem. Washington's thank you letter expressed his delight with the gift and his hope that Virginia would join her sister state in ratification.

The Federalist remained at Mount Vernon only six weeks before Washington noted in his diary that she “broke from her moorings and sank” in a major hurricane.

In 1988, in honor of the bicentennial of the ratification of the Constitution, a full-sized replica of The Federalist was designed by Melbourne Smith and built by Allen Rawl with private funding by the Maryland Federalist Foundation and in cooperation with the Maryland Office for the Bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution and the Maryland State Archives. The re-created ship served as a traveling educational exhibit during the bicentennial period.

This is a one-sixth scale model of the Federalist also created for the bicentennial celebrations

RAW CONTENT:

Ship “The Maryland Federalist”— Given as a gift to G. Washington in 1788 by Baltimore Merchants as a symbol of their esteem for his role in creating the constitution. Maryland ratification committee met in the House of Delegates in 1788 to vote to ratify the constitution by Maryland as the 7th state to do so. A parade within the same year the ship was the centerpiece. The 7 sails on the ship represent the fact that Maryland was the 7th state to ratify. She broke from her moorings and sank 6 months later due to a hurricane. Barney was the Captain of the Continental Navy who was the commander who sailed the Federalist” to Mount Vernon for Washington.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Three articles about the parade in Baltimore exhibits 1788, Boston, Middletown, CT, Philadelphia

LABEL CONTENT:

E. The John Shaw Flag

This unusual American flag is a replica of one of two flags ordered by the Governor and Council of Maryland in 1783 to be hoisted for the President of the Continental Congress which was scheduled to meet in Annapolis on November 26, 1783. One of the flags was probably raised over the President’s residence at the old Governor’s mansion on what are now the grounds of the U. S. Naval Academy. The second flag flew atop the State House from December 13, 1783 when a quorum of Congress finally arrived until at least the 1790s when it appears proudly flying from the dome in a contemporary watercolor.

The two flags constructed by John Shaw no longer exist. The design of this replica was deduced from receipts for the materials found 200 years later at the Maryland State Archives.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

The John Shaw Flag

Presented by the Maryland State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, December 13, 1983.

Mrs. Charles Bloedom, State Regent (1982-1985).

Commission on Artistic Property

MdCAP 807

4A By exit door: Ratifying the Constitution 1788-1812

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

Ball for Washington 12/22/1783

Ball the night before in the Rotunda for George Washington John Shaw did the illuminations. Rotunda was used for balls and was referred to as the Ballroom.

Photograph of recreation of the famous Washington's Ball

Dance's death 2/17/1793

The State

MD ratification convention in House of Delegates 4/28/1788

MD ratification committee meet in House of Delegates 4/28/1788

Annapolis Convention 1786, interstate convention called by Virginia to discuss a uniform regulation of commerce. It met at Annapolis, Md. With only 5 of the 13 states represented, there could be no full-scale discussion of the commercial problems the nation faced as a result of the weak central government under the Articles of Confederation. The main achievement of the convention was the decision to summon a new meeting for the express purpose of considering changes in the Articles of Confederation to make the union more powerful. Articles of Confederation or a "firm league of friendship" between and among the 13

states

Annapolis Convention of 1785

Baltimore parade

The Nation

MD 7th state to ratify

War of 1812

5A Outside Old House of Delegates: Crafting Freedom 1815-1876

I. Restoration of House of Delegates Room

LABEL CONTENT:

The Early 19th Century State House

After the completion of the State House dome in 1794, the configuration and occupancy of the State house changed little in the five decades that followed. The grounds were landscaped in 1818 and again in the 1830s, and new walls were put up to prevent livestock from wandering the grounds, but there were few major building or renovation campaigns on the building's interior. Instead, local artisans built and supplied furniture and provided maintenance, repairs, and other services as needed. John Shaw refurnished the Senate Chamber in 1797, and the House of Delegates Chamber was refurnished in 1807 by two former Shaw workmen, William and Washington Tuck.

In the midst of the quiet community of Annapolis, the State House stood out as the city's most reliable source of employment. The executive and legislative bodies, as well as John Shaw and Washington Tuck, who succeeded Shaw as the Superintendent of the State House, regularly employed local artisans to complete work at the capitol. Collaboration among local artisans to complete contracts for work at the State House was common throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In 1784, Charles Willson Peale sent his monumental portrait of Washington, Lafayette, and Tilghman at Yorktown from his studio in Philadelphia to the State House with instructions that it was to be framed by John Shaw.

The State House was not merely the center of government and employment for locals, it was frequently used for important events and celebrations. Citizens packed into the Senate Chamber in June of 1823 to hear Charles Willson Peale lecture on the subject of natural history, and they also gathered annually on the grounds for a ceremonial cannon salute on George Washington's birthday. Artwork, many in the form of state commissions, was displayed throughout the building to commemorate the history of the state.

By 1850, after more than 75-years of occupancy, the interior of the State House looked much as it had in 1779, and in many areas, such as the legislative chambers, the furnishings were entering their fifth decade of use.

LABEL CONTENT:

The Recreation of the Old House of Delegates Chamber

As part of a master plan to enhance the historical interpretation of the State House, plans are underway to recreate the Old House of Delegates Chamber as it appeared in the late nineteenth century.

Several refurbishments are documented to have taken place in the Old House of Delegates Chamber, originally enlarged in 1858 to accommodate the growing legislature. The most vividly documented redecoration took place in 1876, during America's Centennial, when the country was looking back to its colonial beginnings and celebrating the modern achievements of the Industrial Age. The Maryland State House was no exception, undertaking a complete refurbishment of the legislative chambers, under the direction of architect George Frederick (1842-1924). Two highly detailed photographs of the Old House Chamber as designed by Frederick provide ample physical evidence to restore this room to its late 19th century appearance using reproduction furnishings and textiles, and including an accurate reproduction of the original painted ceiling.

When completed, the restored Old House of Delegates Chamber will feature exhibits interpreting the Maryland Legislature in the 19th century. The highly decorative Victorian style of the room will present a contrast to the Colonial austerity of the Old Senate Chamber, further illustrating the changes over time that have occurred in the State House.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

The House of Delegates Chamber, circa 1876

Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 182-01-0160

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

The House of Delegates Chamber, circa 1893

Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 182-01-0520

II. Rights of Jews

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

'The Jew Bill', 1826

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Laws, original)

MSA S 966-182

The Maryland Constitution of 1776 provided that "all persons professing the Christian religion are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty," and required a "declaration of belief in Christian religion" in order to be admitted to public office.

Thomas Kennedy, a native of Scotland and a member of the House of Delegates from Hagerstown, sought to correct this injustice toward Jews. Beginning in 1818, he led the movement to pass "An Act to extend to the sect of people professing the Jewish religion the same rights and privileges that are enjoyed by Christians." The bill was defeated several times and Kennedy himself suffered virulent attacks from the public and lost his seat in the House. Undaunted, Kennedy regained his seat in the House of Delegates by running as an independent and continued to fight for the passage of the law.

Kennedy's bill finally passed in 1826. A few months later, two Jews were elected to the Baltimore City Council.

III. 1864 and 1867 Constitution

IV. Civil War and 14th-16th amendments

RAW CONTENT:

General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia invaded Maryland in 1862 and was repulsed by Union forces at Antietam. In 1863, Lee again invaded the North and marched across Maryland on the way to and from Gettysburg. Throughout the war Maryland was the scene of many minor battles and skirmishes.

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

Redecorated 1875

Restored 2009

The State

1826 Thomas Kennedy - Act Pertaining to Rights. - The bill that he helped to pass extended political rights to Jews, and was not dropped until the present Maryland Constitution was adopted in 1867. At the time, there were only about 150 Jews in Maryland. Thomas Kennedy had never even met one, but he was outraged by the injustice of excluding an entire group of people because of their religious beliefs. For him, religion was "a question which rests, or ought to rest, between man and his Creator alone."

1864 Declaration of Rights abolished slavery

1864 and 1867 Constitutions

In 1860 there were 87,000 slaves in Maryland, but industrialists and businessmen had special interests in adhering to the Union, and despite the urgings of Southern sympathizers, made famous in J. R. Randall's song, "Maryland, My Maryland," the state remained in the Union.

1866 The first of its kind owned and operated by blacks, The Chesapeake Marine and Dry-dock Company was opened in Baltimore. Its owner is Black Labor Union creator, Isaac Myers.

The Nation

1836 The "gag rule" is passed by Congress, which prohibits any antislavery bill or petition from being introduced, read or discussed.

Civil War and 14th-16th amendments

Dred Scott decision (1857) of the United State Supreme Court denies slaves citizenship and denies Congress the power to restrict slavery in federal territory.

Area 5 - Old House of Delegates: Crafting Freedom 1815-1876

I. Choosing Freedom

Mason-Dixon Line as symbolic and literal boundary

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Augustus W. Bradford (1806-1881)

Governor of Maryland 1862-1866

Oscar Hallwig (1865-1925)

Oil on canvas, 1920

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-1107

When voters elected Bradford, the Union party candidate for governor on November 6, 1861, it signaled that Maryland would not secede from the Union.

Thomas Holliday Hicks (1798-1865)

Governor of Maryland 1858-1862

James Kimball Harley (1829-1889)

Oil on canvas, 1867

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-1175

As a staunch Unionist, Hicks resisted calls for Maryland secession from the Union, but his opposition to abolitionists led him to advocate for his state's neutrality from the conflict.

II. The State Constitutions

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Article 24 of the Declaration of Rights of the Maryland Constitution of 1864

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 972-2

In November 1864, Maryland ratified a new constitution prohibiting slavery. Article 24 reads:

That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted and all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby declared free.

Three years later in 1867, a Constitutional Convention met in the House of Delegates Chamber of the State House and drafted a new constitution which revised elements of the 1864 constitution that were obsolete in the period immediately following the Civil War. One of the most controversial elements of the 1864 Constitution was the enforcement of strict loyalty oaths for voting and holding office that effectively disenfranchised Democrats.

Maryland has had four constitutions. At the time of the Revolutionary War, the first constitution was adopted by the Ninth Provincial Convention, meeting at Annapolis, in November 1776. Voters adopted the second constitution in June 1851. The third constitution was adopted by the voters in October 1864, followed by the Constitution of 1867, still in effect today.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Constitution of 1867

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

From May 8 to August 17, 1867, a Constitutional Convention met in the House of Delegates Chamber of the State House and drafted the constitution that is still in effect today. This new constitution was ratified on September 18 of the same year.

Maryland has had four constitutions. At the time of the Revolutionary War, the first constitution was adopted by the Ninth Provincial Convention, meeting at Annapolis, in November 1776. Voters adopted the second constitution in June 1851. During the Civil War, the third constitution was adopted by the voters in October 1864. The constitution adopted by voters in 1867 is the fourth and last constitution under which Maryland government now functions.

III. Burning of Peggy Stewart and The Planting of the Colony of Maryland

IV. Dred Scott speeches/Judge Taney

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Audio of speeches -
they had the auditories

Scrim -

Create a design that would give a feeling of the crowding there would have been in the room– Scrim of Delegates Chamber filled with desks and people. “Theater of Government” Design it so there is space for flexibility a few desks but not as crowded as if all desks

6A At juncture between old and new sections: Crafting Legislation 1880-1900

I. Building the addition

LABEL CONTENT:

The 20th Century State House

By the beginning of the 1900s, occupancy of the State House had once again exceeded the available space and the General Assembly commissioned Baltimore architects James Baldwin and Josias Pennington to design and construct a new addition to the State House. This addition, known as the “new annex,” would replace the two previous annexes from 1858 and 1886, and provide new spaces for the General Assembly, committees, and the Executive. The focal point of the new annex was to be the new, and greatly enlarged, chambers for the legislature. At the same time, Baldwin and Pennington also designed a new building for the Court of Appeals built across the street from the State House on what is now Lawyers Mall.

Construction of the new annex lasted from 1902 until 1905. The General Assembly convened in the new chambers at the start of the 1906 Session. Baldwin and Pennington’s annex was a triumph of colonial revival architecture, combining the Georgian symmetry of the old section with the grandeur of twentieth century design, and removing all vestiges of the 1876-1877 Victorian renovations. Large polished slabs of marble adorned walls in offices, hallways, legislative chambers, and even bathrooms, and black limestone and white marble floor tiles were installed to match the tiles in the old section. Tiffany & Co. supplied five large stained glass skylights, including two for the legislative chambers, enhancing the electric light installed throughout the building.

Concurrent with the construction of the annex, Baldwin and Pennington superintended a series of renovations in the original portion of the State House to stabilize and fireproof the structure and change the interior décor. The old section was restored to its colonial appearance, and all of the Victorian fixtures and furnishings were removed. The Old Senate Chamber was restored to a period room that evoked its appearance.

ARTIFACTS CONTENT:

Old House Chamber

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-116

The old House Chamber, ca. 1902, before the move to the new addition. Note the electric light bulbs and the paintings on the walls. The Charles Willson Peale portrait of Washington, Lafayette, and Tilghman, barely visible on the right wall and now hanging in the old Senate Chambers, replaced a portrait of William Pitt (presently in the old Senate Committee Room), in 1784, when the artist personally supervised its installation. The Planting of the Colony of Maryland on the back wall by Frank B. Mayer was commissioned for this room and hung there ca. 1894.

State House Addition

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-117

A view of the State House looking north from a Main Street window or rooftop and showing the 1886 addition that was demolished to make way for the 1902-1905 addition still in use today.

State House Annex

Maryland State Archives
MdHR G 1556-118

Exterior view of the 1902-1905 annex designed by the Baltimore architectural firm of Baldwin and Pennington.

State House exterior showing ‘the second annex’, after 1886 and before 1902

George Forbes Collection, Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 182-01-0721

Although George Frederick’s renovations addressed structural concerns of the State House, the problem of cramped conditions for the building’s occupants remained unresolved. The construction of the second annex, a rectangular building connected to the octagonal annex from 1858, was intended to resolve those problems. The 1886 annex provided new offices and committee rooms for the House of Delegates and improved quarters for the State Library. Unfortunately, the design and functionality of the annex never met expectations, and it was widely considered to have been “badly built.”

State House rotunda, c. 1882-1903

George Forbes Collection, Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 182-01-0161

This is the earliest known view of the State House rotunda, and it shows the layout of the first floor after the interior renovations completed in 1881-1882. Renovations in the rotunda included the installation of black and white marble tiles and new columns and pilasters, all of which are still in use today. Outside the rotunda, the original portico was dismantled and replaced with the current portico.

To the left of the rotunda is one of two doors into the House of Delegates Chamber, while the Senate Post Office and Committee Room [today known as the Stairwell Room and Old Senate Committee Room] are to the right. The State Library occupied the 1858 annex until it was torn down in 1902 for the new annex. Spittoons are placed on the black and white marble tiles and at the foot of the stairs—the signs caution against spitting on the floors!

“The State House as it now Appears”

The Baltimore News
December 26, 1905
Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 2890

This article, among the first to celebrate the completion of the Annex and its reopening, provides an extraordinarily detailed description of the interior of the State House. These are among the earliest known images of the interior of the Annex; no photographs of the 1902-1905 construction have been located to date.

TIMELINE CONTENT:**The Building**

1856 and 1886 annexes; 1902 addition

The State

Population growth

Labor troubles hit Maryland with the Panic of 1873, and four years later railroad wage disputes resulted in large-scale rioting in Cumberland and Baltimore

The Nation

Immigration

Area 7 - New House of Delegates: Crafting Legislation 1900-mid-20th century

I. Increased representation

RAW CONTENT:

1st MD African American and 1st female representative

1958 Irma Dixon and Verda Welcome Freeman become the first African-American women to be elected to the Maryland House of delegates

1962 Verda Freeman Welcome becomes the first African-American woman to be elected to the state Senate.

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

Maryland's legislative branch is made up of a general assembly of 141 delegates and 47 senators. Each house has its own chamber, but both must pass a bill for it to go to the governor for signature. Delegates serve the people in their home district and will introduce bills based upon citizen opinion and ideas.

RAW CONTENT:

Maryland is governed under a constitution adopted in 1867. The general assembly consists of 47 senators and 141 delegates, all elected for four-year terms. The governor, also elected for a four-year term, may succeed him- or herself once. The state elects two U.S. senators and eight representatives. It has 10 electoral votes.

TIMELINE CONTENT:

Image 1: photo of House of Delegates from 1902-1950[caption depends upon photo]

Image 2: Maryland Flag

While the flag design has remained basically the same since the founding of the State as a British colony, it was not formally adopted until 1904. The flag is to be flown from the State House at Annapolis while the General Assembly is in session and on other public occasions determined by the Governor.

Fun Fact: Legislators are not liable for words spoken in debate.

The State

In the early 1900s, different groups sought legal protection or civil rights by petitioning the General Assembly. Women fought for suffrage - the right to vote - on both the state and national level. Maryland women did not gain the right to vote until the U.S. Constitution was amended in 1919. An act in 1912, however, did make it illegal for women to work more than ten hours in a day. The same year child labor and schooling was regulated.

RAW CONTENT:

During the 20th cent., Maryland became a leader in labor and other reform legislation. The administrations of governors Austin L. Crowthers (1908–12) and Albert C. Ritchie (1920–35) were noted for reform. Ritchie, a Democrat, became nationally known for his efforts to improve the efficiency and economy of state government. Since World War II, public-works legislation, particularly that concerning roads and other traffic arteries, has brought major changes. The opening of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in 1952 spurred significant industrial expansion on the Eastern Shore; a parallel bridge was opened in 1973. The Patapsco River tunnel under Baltimore harbor was completed in 1957, and the Francis Scott Key Bridge (1977), crosses the Patapsco. Other construction projects have included the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, formerly called Friendship International Airport (1950), south of Baltimore, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (1954). The state gained a different kind of attention in 1968 when its governor, Spiro T. Agnew was elected vice president.

TIMELINE CONTENT:

Image 1: portrait of Edith H. Hooker

Edith Hooker (1879-1948) founded the Just Government League in 1909 to encourage legislators to vote for women's suffrage. While the General Assembly defeated such a measure in 1910, the League grew to 17,000 members by 1915.

Image 2: child in school ~1910

In 1902, children ages 8 to 12 were required to attend school

Image 3: child laboring ~ 1910

The Nation

7B New House of Delegates: Crafting Legislation 1900-mid-20th century

I. Room decoration

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

A. Portraits

Benjamin Cardin Peter Egeli (b. 1934)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 817

John Hanson Briscoe

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 904

Thomas Hunter Lowe by Bjorn Egeli (1900-1986)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1045

Marvin Mandel by Wilson Binebrink (b. 1916)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1051

A. Gordon Boone Peter Egeli (b. 1934)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1151

Emanuel Gorfine by Wilson Binebrink (b. 1916)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 904

John Christopher Luber Peter Egeli (b. 1934)

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1186

David Gregg McIntosh, Jr. (1877-1940) by Stanislaw Rembski (b. 1896)

Presented by the McIntosh family, 1945.
Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1048

C. Ferdinard Sybert (b. 1900) by Mary McClaren

Commission on Artistic property
MdCAP 1002

Perry O. Wilkinson (b. 1905) by Stanislaw Rembski

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1046

B. Tiffany skylights

C. Marble color

II. Function of House of Delegates

RAW CONTENT:

Legislation Today – How does it Work? What are they discussing/ deciding?

The purpose of the General Assembly is to pass laws necessary for the welfare of the State. The legislature may establish executive departments as needed for the efficient operation of State government and may create special taxing districts or areas within the State to administer a special function or functions. In accordance with the Constitutions of Maryland and of the United States, the General Assembly may levy taxes.

It may propose State Constitutional amendments, which must be passed by three-fifths of the total membership of each house and submitted to the voters for ratification at the next general election after passage. Legislative authority is limited only by the State Constitution, the U.S. Constitution, and judicial decisions. Each house elects its own officers, judges the qualifications and election of its own members, establishes rules for the conduct of its business, and may punish or expel its own members. Legislators, however, are not liable in civil or criminal actions for words spoken in debate (Const., Art. III, secs. 18, 19). The Senate and the House of Delegates each appoint staff such as desk officers. The Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House are the highest ranking staff members in their respective chambers.

Democrats traditionally dominate state government; William D. Schaefer was elected governor in 1986 and 1990, Parris Glendening in 1994 and 1998. In 2002, however, a Republican, Robert Ehrlich, Jr., was elected to the office. Ehrlich was defeated (2006) for reelection by Democrat Martin O'Malley.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Electronic Voting Boards

8A Outside New Senate: Crafting the Future Mid-20th Century to present

I. History of the Senate Chamber

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Senate Chamber

Eugene W. Otto
c. 1907
Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 182-01-870

These photographs show the two chambers shortly after the completion of the 1902-1905 annex. The General Assembly has convened in these Chambers for every legislative session since 1905 when it met in the new spaces even through the rooms were unfinished. The portrait of Governor Edwin Warfield and the statues of John Hanson and Charles Carroll of Carrollton in the Senate Chamber, all commissioned for the new annex, are the only works of art visible in either chamber.

II. Executive Branch

LABEL CONTENT:

Who Works in this Building?

Although an important historic building, the Maryland State House also functions as a modern working building. It is home to the Executive and Legislative branches of the state government, and the General Assembly convenes annually for 90 days between January and April for the legislative session.

Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown and their staffs work on the second floor. The first floor is home to the legislative chambers, and the offices of Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., and Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael E. Busch. Executive and legislative staff and members of the press have offices on the ground floor.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Stereographic View of the Governor's Reception Room

Photographer unknown
c. 1876-1882
Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 1951-02-18

Directly above the Old Senate Chamber, the space known as the Governor's Reception Room has served as the ceremonial office of the Executive Department since the State House opened in 1779. Known as the Council Chamber until 1838 and then the Executive Chamber for the remainder of the century when the governor and the secretary of state shared the space, it has been called Governor's Reception Room since 1905. This image shows the room as it appeared shortly after the Victorian renovations of 1876-1877.

Governor Theodore McKeldin and students in the Governor's Reception Room

Photographer unknown
Maryland's Historic State House (Maryland Department of Information, 1953)

Governor Martin O'Malley and students from Our Lady of Lourdes School in the Governor's Reception Room

Governor's Press Office
2007
Maryland State Archives
MSA T 3908

Governor's Office

Governor's Press Office

2008

Maryland State Archives

MSA T 3908

Office of Governor Martin O'Malley, 2008

Governor Martin O'Malley's office in the State House features works of art and furnishings from the state owned art collection as well as paintings on loan from the Maryland Historical Society.

The desk used by the governor is the Wye Oak Legacy Desk made in 2004 from wood of the 450 year old Wye Oak, which fell in June, 2002. Designed and constructed by cabinetmakers Jim McMartin and Jim Beggins of Saint Michaels, Maryland, the desk is constructed using traditional woodworking techniques including hand-cut dovetails and mortise-and-tenon joints.

III. Ratification of 14th and 15th amendmentsRAW CONTENT:

Maryland 1959 ratified 14th Amendment

Ratified 15th gave the to Blacks right to vote 1970

2007 apology for slavery

TIMELINE CONTENT:**The Building**

Construction of new Senate chamber

The State

1959 and 1973 passing of 14th and 15th amendments

The Nation

Thurgood Marshall

Area 8 - New Senate Chamber: Crafting the Future Mid-20th Century to present

I. Room decoration

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832), by Thomas Sully (1783-1872), 1834

Commission of artistic Property
MdCAP 1114

**Samuel Chase (1741-1811), by John Beale Bordley (1800-1882),
head after John WWesley Jarvis (1780-1848), 1836**

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 115

**William Paca (1740-1799), by John Beale Bordley (1800-1882),
head after Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827), 1836**

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1117

**Thomas Stone (1743-1787), by John Beale Bordley (1800-1882),
head after Robrt Edge Pine (1730?-1788)**

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1116

Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832), by Roger Brooks ()

Commisinn on Artistic Property
MdCAP 758

John Hanson (1721-1783), by Roger Brooks ()

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 757

John Walter Smith (1845-1925),by Thomas Cromwell Corner (1865-1938), 1904

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1123

Edwin Warfield (1865-1938), by Thomas Cromwell Corner (1865-1938), 1907

Commission on Artistic Property
MdCAP 1124

RAW CONTENT:

Four Paintings of Signers of Declaration of Independence: Carroll, William Paca, Thomas Stone, William Chase

Charles Carroll of Carrollton a Delegate and a Senator from Maryland; born in Annapolis, Md.1737 Delegate to the Continental Congress 1776-1778; again elected to the Continental Congress in 1780, but declined to serve; was a signer of the Declaration of Independence; member, State senate 1777-1800; elected to the United States Senate in 1789; reelected in 1791 and served from March 4, 1789, to November 30, 1792, involved in establishing the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company in 1828.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Samuel Chase (1741-1811)

John Beale Bordley (1800-1882)
Oil on canvas, 1836
Collection of the Maryland State Archives
MSA SC 1545-1115

In January 1833, the Maryland Legislature formed a joint committee to “devise some suitable tribute of respect to the memory of the venerated Charles Carroll,” the distinguished former Senator and oldest living Signer of the Declaration of Independence, who died at his home in Baltimore two months earlier at the age of ninety-five.

The Committee engaged the services of artist Thomas Sully to paint a full-length portrait of Carroll to be hung in the Maryland State House. The resulting portrait, considered by scholars to be one of the finest state portraits in American art, has been displayed in the Maryland State House since its delivery in 1834. In 1834, Maryland artist John Beale Bordley received a commission to paint full-length portraits of the other three Signers to be displayed in the State House alongside Sully’s portrait of Charles Carroll. All four portraits now hang in the Senate Chamber.

8B Center of Hall: Crafting the Future Mid-20th Century to present

LABEL CONTENT:

The USS Maryland Silver Service

In May 1906, the citizens and school children of Maryland donated \$5,000 to purchase a 48 piece silver service for the new armored cruiser USS Maryland. Made by Samuel Kirk and Sons of Baltimore, the set depicts 167 scenes from the history of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Not only do its pieces portray the houses, churches, and events of Maryland history, but their decorative borders symbolize the economy and culture of the state. Horns of plenty speak of hospitable, fruitful Maryland—“The land of pleasant living.” Festooned tobacco leaves and oyster shell borders refer to two industries that not only strengthen Maryland’s economy but also symbolize the importance of both land and water in the life of our state. Rope borders on each piece show the nautical purpose of the USS Maryland is carved into the design, and the names of 12 noteworthy Maryland naval officers appear on the 12 punch cups.

In 1960, the service was presented as a permanent gift to the State of Maryland from the United States Navy. Currently, two candlesticks from the service are aboard the nuclear submarine USS Maryland (SSBN-738).

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Baltimore County and Baltimore City punch bowl, plateau, ladle and cups Samuel Kirk and Sons, Inc.

Sterling silver, 1906

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-0929-1/15

This punch bowl from the USS Maryland silver service is decorated with geographic and architectural scenes, innovations in arts and industry, and historic events associated with Baltimore and Baltimore County. The cups feature the names of twelve naval heroes from Maryland and their life dates.

Border: First electric street car; Great Seal of Maryland; first telegraph set; Peter Cooper locomotive; first elevated railway; cruiser Maryland; sketch symbolizing the birth of the Star Spangled Banner; first gas street lamp

Bowl: Bombardment of Fort McHenry; laying out of Baltimore Town; Baltimore in 1752; Washington Monument

Plateau: Baltimore clipper Flying Cloud; Congress Hall, four diamondback terrapins.

8C Exit: Crafting the Future Mid-20th Century to present

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Bronze Entry Doors to the 1902-1905 Annex

George Forbes

c. 1906

Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 182-01-0874

These doors were made by John Williams Inc., of New York City and installed in October 1906. The doors bear the reverse and obverse of the Maryland seal in high relief, and each weighs 2,100 pounds.

The Exterior

Around Circle: Crafting the Maryland State House

LABEL CONTENT:

Banners

- Why did George resign here in 1783?
- Who was the first black woman State Senator?
- What is the Mason-Dixon Line?
- Where is the Maryland Governor's office?
- When was this city the Nation's First Capitol?

Label about architecture

- A number of Graphic Maps of other Historic Sites around Annapolis talk about "Annapolis complex"
- Graphic showing the appointment of the Statehouse on the hill with its surround. Talk about its role and location and take them into building and discuss its revolution.
- Dome - Wendy Belliam the State House as an eye watching out over constituent/people Dome based on Karlsruhe, Germany Multicultural piece
- Architectural Details i.e. The Acorn: To provide stability to the "Franklin" lightning rod, which goes through its center. Acorns were common decorative elements in the late 18th century. In the language of the day, "sound as an acorn" meant to be without a flaw, free from imperfection, clearly something the architect of the dome, Joseph Clark, and the General Assembly, intended his creation to be.
- Weather Vane – Fish
- Wood used in dome construction: Timber from Maryland's Eastern Shore, supplied by Dashiell family of cypress Swamp, Somerset County.
- Architect of the dome: Joseph Clark
- Discuss the fact that it is a National Historic Landmark -Third state house
- This was the first peacetime capitol from /26/1783 – 08/13/1784

Label about Memorials

Memorials at the Maryland State House

The tradition of placing memorials on the grounds of the State House began in the early years of the 19th century with the commissioning of the statue of Baron de Kalb in 1817, although it was not completed until 1886. Throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries memorials continued to be added to the exterior and interior of the State House commemorating the contributions of Marylanders to our nation's history as well as events and anniversaries associated with the building itself.

Public memorials sometimes inspire public debate, as is the case of the statue of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, infamous for his decision in the Dred Scott case – that blacks were not citizens of the United States and had none of the rights and privileges of citizenship. While some have questioned the presence of a statue to Taney in such a prominent location, its presence provides an opportunity to teach an unfortunate but important part of our history as a nation.

Outside window of OSC : Crafting a new nation

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Bronze statues of horse and slave awaiting GW – need label?

Taney Statue: Crafting Freedom

RAW CONTENT:

Judge Taney's Dred Scott Decision – this is History! The good, the bad and the ugly – Start a dialog on decision-making and begin to understand what historical contexts they are made in.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Roger Brooke Taney (1777-1864)

William Henry Rinehart (1825-1874)

Bronze, 1872

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-0760

A native of Calvert County, Roger Brooke Taney served in both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate. He also served the national government as acting U.S. secretary of war, U.S. attorney general, secretary of the Treasury, and chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. This statue was unveiled on December 11, 1872.

Judge Taney is most remembered for the infamous decision of 1857 in the case of Dred Scott v. Sandford. In delivering the majority opinion, Taney stated that 'any person descended from black Africans, whether slave or free, is not a citizen of the United States, according to the Declaration of Independence.' Taney's controversial decision polarized the debate over slavery in the United States and is considered to be one of the critical events leading to the outbreak of the Civil War.

The Maryland Legislature commissioned this statue of Taney for the State House partly in response to the Congress's initial refusal to display a bust of Taney in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

MLK Tree: Crafting Freedom

RAW CONTENT:

Martin Luther King plaque dedication of a tree in 1984 memorial rededicated in 2006 Plaque maybe on the map.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Oak Tree Plaque

Designed by Sharron Fletcher, Signcraft

Bronze, 2007

Collection of the Maryland State Archives

MSA SC 1545-3331

On June 2, 1958, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a commencement address at Morgan State College that had gone unnoticed by scholars for nearly 50 years. His words from that day, later immortalized as part of the "I Have a Dream" speech, were recovered from the pages of the Afro American newspaper and used for a new plaque at the memorial oak tree on the Maryland State House grounds that was dedicated in 2007.

The tree honoring Dr. King was originally planted on the State House grounds in 1984.

Marshall Memorial: Crafting Freedom

RAW CONTENT:

Thurgood Marshall Memorial directly on the other side of the state house balance to Taney – location of demonstrations find photos of demonstration

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993), born in Baltimore, became the first African-American Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson appointed him United States Solicitor General. Two years later he was appointed to the Supreme Court. The Baltimore Washington International; Airport was renamed "Thurgood Marshall Baltimore Washington International Airport" by Governor Robert Ehrlich in 2005.

ARTIFACT CONTENT:**Thurgood Marshall Memorial**

Antonio Tobias Mendez
 Bronze, granite, limestone, 1996
 Collection of the Maryland State Archives
 MSA SC 1545-2944

A native of Baltimore, Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in that city, and Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He earned his law degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and returned to Baltimore where he began his long association with the NAACP. In 1967, Marshall became the first African American to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Unveiled in 1996, the memorial is erected on the site of the old Court of Appeals Building where Marshall argued some of his early civil rights cases. Additional figures in the memorial depict Donald Gaines Murray, the plaintiff in Marshall's successful argument to admit African Americans into the University of Maryland School of Law, and two children representing students in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case, also successfully argued by Thurgood Marshall.

The location of the memorial on Lawyer's Mall, a public gathering area, often places Marshall's statue at the center of public debate and political rallies.

LABEL CONTENT:**Network to Freedom Memorial: Crafting Freedom**

In 2006, the National Park Service designated the Maryland State House as a site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. This designation was based on laws relating to slavery that were debated in the General Assembly; the conventions held in the State House relating to the issue of slavery; the cases heard by the Court of Appeals which met in the State House; and the Constitutional Convention of 1864 that resulted in the abolishment of slavery in Maryland.

RAW CONTENT:**Old Treasury Building: Crafting Maryland**

- The Old Treasury Building on State Circle was built in 1735-36 as a treasury for the Commissioners for Emitting Bills of Credit.
- 17th Century Stories that connect to St. Mary's City as first capitol
- Move of the Capital to separate the capital from Catholicism
- Annapolis was more Protestant
- Start Religious Freedom and immigration/multi-culturalism
- On the Bay and More central location on trade routes
- Population growth/economic prosperity
- First tombs – recent lead coffin
- What is the Treasury?
- Old Iron Chest for money
- Self Guided tour
- Focus group: Address Early Maryland
- Native People:
 - Algonquian-speaking Native American Tribes:
 - Nanticoke, Wicomico, Choptank, Susquehannock
 - 1631 William Claiborne came to Kent Island and built a trading post
 - traded with Indians for furs first non-Indian settlement.

Old Treasury Building: Crafting Maryland (continued)

- George Calvert, Lord Baltimore a Catholic came to Maryland for religious freedom.
- Charles I gave this land to George Calvert in 1632.
- In 1632, Charles I granted a charter to George Calvert, 1st Baron Baltimore, yielding him feudal rights to the region between lat. 40°N and the Potomac River. Disagreement over the boundaries of the grant led to a long series of border disputes with Virginia that were not resolved until 1930.
- Before the great seal was affixed to the charter, George Calvert died, but his son Cecilius Calvert, 2d Baron Baltimore, was given land and undertook development of the colony as a haven for his persecuted fellow Catholics and also as a source of income and it was named Maryland after King Charles's wife Queen Henrietta Maria.
- 1634 two ships landed from England, the Ark and the Dove, (both Catholic and Protestant) While Indians watched these settlers stepped ashore on Blakstone Island. The Yoacomo did not attack but helped these settlers giving them fish and meat. Settler gave them farm tools and cloth in exchange for the village. The Indians left the area because they believed they were going to be attacked by another tribe, sparing Maryland the conflicts other colonies experienced.
- These settlers built more houses, a fort and called the city St. Mary's MD first town now referred to as St Mary's City.
- 1634 Matthias De Sousa (Matt Das Sousa) arrives to Maryland aboard a ship named the Ark as an indentured servant. As an indentured servant, De Sousa must face seven years of servitude to pay off his debts, then he will be granted his freedom. Mr. De Sousa is the first African-American to sit in a legislative assembly. In 1642 he votes in the Maryland Colonial General Assembly.
- A toleration act (1649) was passed in an attempt to save the Catholic settlers from persecution, but it was repealed (1654) after the Puritans seized control. A brief civil war ensued (1655), from which the Puritans emerged triumphant. Anti-Catholic activity persisted until the 19th cent., when in an unusual reversal of the prevailing pattern many Catholic immigrants came to Baltimore.
- 1664 The lower House of Maryland asks the upper House to draft an act declaring that the baptism of slaves did not lead to their freedom.
- 1664 Maryland passes a law that a white woman who marries an African slave should serve the master of such a slave for life.
- 1676 first state house in St Mary's City
- 1681 Under Maryland state law, children born to white mothers and African-American fathers as well as children born to free African-American women are considered free.
- 1692 A law is passed in Maryland that forces white men to serve 7 years of servitude if they marry or have children by African-American women. African-American men who have sexual relations with white women are also penalized.
- In 1694, when the capital was moved from St. Mary's to Annapolis, those were the only towns in the province, but the next century saw the emergence of commercially oriented Baltimore, which by 1800 had a population of more than 30,000 and a flourishing coastal trade.
- Tobacco became the basis of the economy by 1730, these plantations were worked by many slaves.
- In 1767 the demarcation of the Mason-Dixon Line ended a long-standing boundary dispute with Pennsylvania.
- 1731 November 9th, astronomer and mathematician Benjamin Banneker is born to free parents in Ellicott, Maryland.
- 1754 Although he has never seen one, Benjamin Banneker constructs a clock that strikes on the hour, the first clock made completely in America.
- 1791 The first edition of Banneker's almanac was published by Benjamin Banneker
- 1767 Kunta Kinte (of Roots fame) arrives in Annapolis as part of a cargo of slaves.
- 1793 Congress passes the first fugitive slave law.

- 1798 In the Baltimore Intelligencer, the first advertisement by Joshua Johnston appears. He is the first African-American portrait painter to receive widespread recognition.

TIMELINE CONTENT:

The Building

Treasury Building built 1735-1756

Its purpose

The State

First capitol St. Mary's City 1634-1695

Native American trade

Slavery and tobacco

The Nation

4th European settlement in North America

Ground Floor

Visitor Orientation and School Group Staging area

RAW CONTENT:

Suggestions for use:

- New wayfinding
- Change operational and official government affect to more welcoming and inviting space through graphics and murals.
- Move women's room sign

ARTIFACT CONTENT:

Floor graphic: Welcome to the MSH

Welcome to the MARYLAND STATE HOUSE

For more than 300 years, the men and women who shaped our state and our nation have made history here. Follow their footsteps and feel their spirit. From colonial times to the present, their debates and decisions affect our lives today. Your participation in our government is important, too.

Be a part of the making of Maryland!

Stair graphic: Crafting a New Nation

George did not sleep here,

but he did resign here.

Come up and see where and why!

RAW CONTENT:

Governor's Elevator: Crafting the Future

Direct visitors to and interpret Governor's elevator, beautiful but odd location and size

Note that executive and legislative branch of state government share same building

Wayfinding to Handicap Elevator

Fun Facts

These tidbits of information might find a place on timelines as “Fun Facts” – a simple sentence or two of trivia. There also are many such tidbits in the label copy from old State House installation.

- **Motto:** Fatti Maschii, Parole Femine [Strong Deeds, Gentle Words]
- **The Old Line State:** This nickname is, according to some, a reference to the Maryland soldiers who fought courageously in the Revolutionary War, the Maryland Line. It is said that General George Washington referred to these soldiers as “The Old Line.” Maryland was the only state that had regular troops “of the line” and these soldiers were ranked among the finest and best disciplined in the army.
- **“The Monumental City”** was bestowed upon Baltimore by President John Quincy Adams, probably in reference to the monuments he saw on his visit to the city in 1827. The “Battle Monument” honoring Baltimore’s defensive victory in the War of 1812 was standing on the site of the old court house. Construction was under way on the first major memorial to George Washington. President Adams was also taken to North Point to view the Aquila Randall Monument erected to honor a member of the First Mechanical Volunteers of the Fifth Regiment who was killed on September 12, 1814.

At a dinner engagement, Adams thanked the citizens of Baltimore for the kind reception he had been given during his visit and proposed a toast, “Baltimore, the Monumental City—may the days of her safety be as prosperous and happy as the days of her danger have been trying and triumphant!”

- **Francis Scott Key** (1780-1843), born in Frederick, wrote the “Star-Spangled Banner”, our National Anthem, during the bombardment of Baltimore in 1814. He also penned the phrase “In God We Trust” which is used on the United States currency.
- **Johns Hopkins** (1795-1873) born in Anne Arundel County was a philanthropist and financier. Before his death he bequeathed \$7 million to found a free hospital, now Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Johns Hopkins University, both located in Baltimore.
- **Frederick Douglass** (1818-1895), a famous abolitionist (against slavery) and author, was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. At age eight he was sent to Baltimore where he learned to read and write. He spoke out against slavery in the United States and Europe. After the Civil War he fought for the rights of African-Americans and women.
- **Harriet Tubman** (1819?-1913) was born into slavery in Dorchester County. When she was thirty she escaped to freedom to Philadelphia where she learned about the Underground Railroad. After receiving her freedom she helped over 300 slaves escape through the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War she worked as a spy, soldier and nurse. In 1995 the United States Postal Service issued a stamp in her honor.
- **John Wilkes Booth** (1838-65) was born near Bel Air. He began his acting career in Baltimore. Mr. Booth assassinated President Lincoln at Ford’s Theater in Washington in 1865.
- **Billie Holiday** (1915-59) born in Baltimore made her name as a jazz singer in New York City. Her statue is located at the corner of Lafayette and Pennsylvania Avenues.
- **Jim Henson** (1936-1990) grew up outside Washington and attended the University of Maryland. He is best known for the children’s show “Sesame Street.” In 2003 the University of Maryland unveiled a statue of Kermit the Frog and Mr. Henson on a marble bench.
- **John Hanson** 9th president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation, November 5, 1781 - November 3, 1782, Maryland. He was the first President of the Continental Congress to serve a full term after the full ratification of the Articles of Confederation — and like so many of the Southern and New England Founders, he was strongly opposed to the Constitution when it was first discussed. He has been mistakenly called the first President of the United States

PHYSICAL ELEMENTS SCHEDULE

Space	1.A-D Top of stairs	1.E Intro to building
Theme	Welcome to the MD State House	
Chronology		
Function	introduction to visit and Maryland early history of MD	
Artifacts		
Installations	A welcome MD SH panel w /handout map	timeline (see below for content)
	B intro timeline: crafting the bldg, the state and the nation (intro to interpret)	
	C timeline (see below for content)	
	D -looking up at 2nd floor landing: flat screen painting interactive	
Timeline Suggested Content		
The Building	2nd capitol of MD - built 1772-9	old (1772-9) vs. new (1902) fossils in floor
The State	1st capitol St Mary's 1634-1695	oldest state house in cont. use
The Nation	first peacetime capitol of US	1960 Natl Historic Landmark

Space	1 Archives Room	2.A Outside Sen Comm Room	2 Stairwell Room
Theme	Orientation to OSH	Crafting the MSH	Crafting the MSH
Chronology		1750-1800	1750-1800
Function	SH visitor center	building of 1772 State House	craftsmen; workers; dome
Artifacts			
Installations			Shaw letter chest and desk 2 Peale's sketches of SH dome model - in corner
Timeline	orientation video - running loop; no seating	timeline (see content below)	statue: John Shaw kneeling fixing steps
Suggested Content	desk for (2) interpreter		statue: C.W. Peale descending stairs from Dome - sketches in hand
The Building		Shaw as supervisor 1780-1819 dome construction 1785-1792	
The State		Mason-Dixon Line	
The Nation		1776 signing of Dec. - Carroll as only Catholic signer	

Space	3 Old Senate Committee Room	3 Old Senate Chamber
Theme	Crafting a new nation	Crafting a new nation
Chronology	1776-1784	1776-1784
Function	statesmen of new nation - portrait gallery	Washington's Resignation 12/23/83
	preparing for GW resignation	peacetime capitol
	Ratification of Treaty of Paris 1/14/84	"commoners"
Artifacts		
	[window light blocked]	1797 Shaw furnishings
	Peale paintings	McHenry letter -facsimile
	GW speech	
	Tilghman sword & Yorktown painting	
	Treary of Paris (ToP) map	
	Gov. Paca ToP broadside	
Installations		
	environmentally controlled vitrine for GW speech	GW bronze statue reading speech
		McHenry bronze statue at secretary desk
		Ridout bronze statue in balcony
		[thru window] bronze statue of horse and slave
		3 removable label panels
Timeline		
Suggested Content		
The Building		
The State		
The Nation		

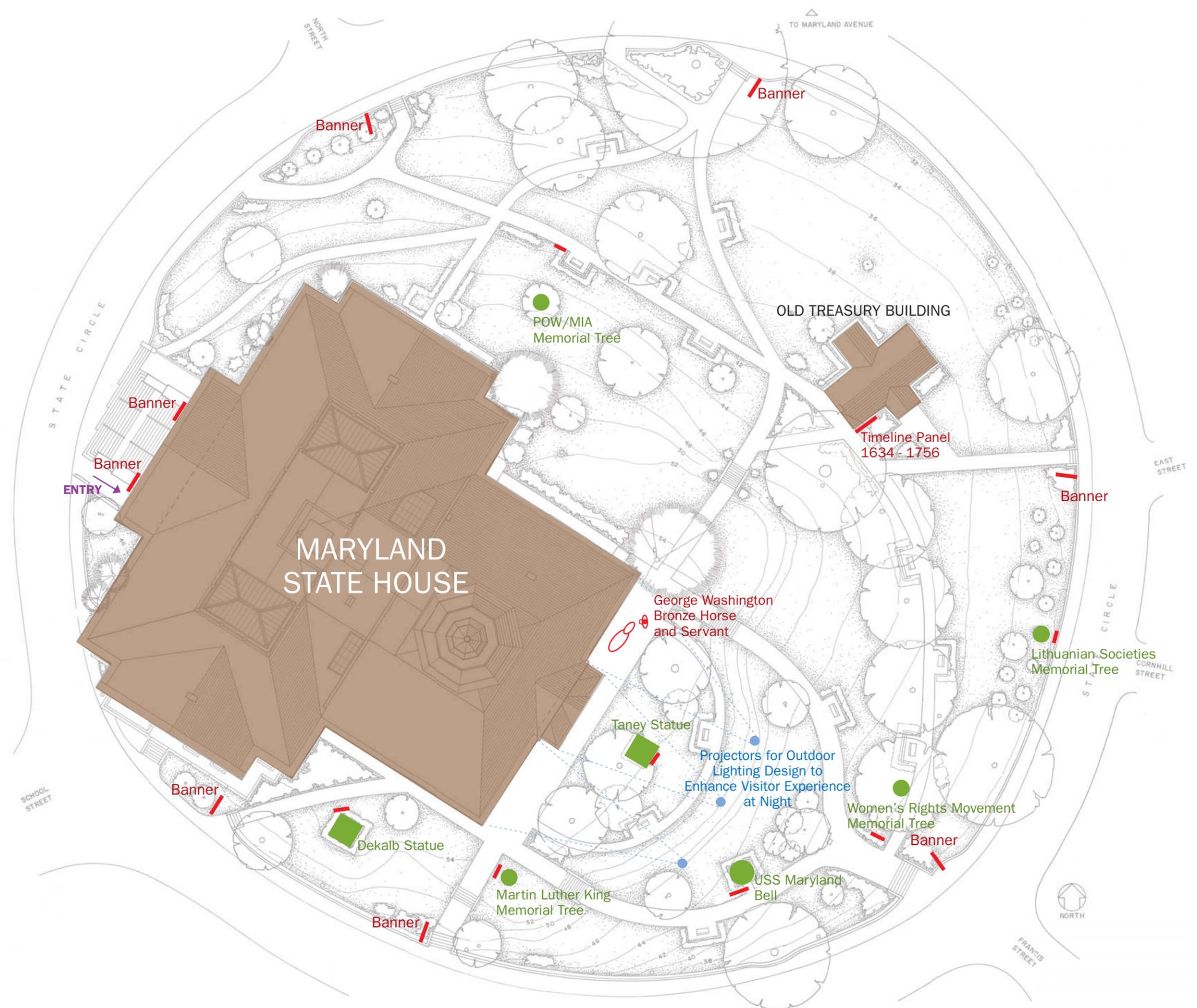
Space	3.A outside OSC	4 Rotunda	4a by door
Theme	Crafting a new nation	Ratifying the Constitution	Ratifying the Constitution
Chronology	1776-1784	1788-1812	1788-1812
Function	restoration of OSC	ratification of Constitution	ratification of Constitution construction of dome
Artifacts		<i>Federalist</i> Shaw flag	
Installations	timeline (see content below)		timeline (see content below)
Timeline Suggested Content			
The Building	Shaw furnishing rm restored 1906, 1948, 2007		Ball 12/22/1783 Dance's death 2/1793
The State	[MDSA to add]		MD commission Shaw flag 4/28/1788 MD ratification committee Annapolis Convention 1785 Baltimore parade/flag
The Nation	GW speech Treaty of Paris		7th state to ratify War of 1812

Space	5.A Outside Old House of Del.(HoD)	5 Old H of D
Theme	Crafting Freedom	Crafting Freedom
Chronology	1815-1876	1815-1876
Function	expansion of rights	expansion of rights
	decoration and restoration of Old HoD	
Artifacts		recreation of 1876 decoration
		1858 original desk
		1876 original desk
		<i>Planting of MD</i>
		<i>Burning of Peggy Stewart</i>
		Governor portraits
Installations	timeline (see content below)	scrim projection
		audio -speeches, Dred Scott,
		Douglass speech
		1864 MD Constitution
		visitor benches
Timeline		
Suggested Content		
The Building	redecorated 1876	
	restoration 2009	
	1826 Kennedy -Act of Pertaining. . .	
The State	1864 Declaration of Rights	
	1864 & 7 Constitutions	
The Nation	Civil War and 14-16 amend.	
	Dred Scott decision	

Space	6.A panel at juncture of old and new sections	7.A Outside New H of D
Theme	Crafting Legislation	Crafting Legislation
Chronology	1880-1902	1900-mid-20th century
Function	expansion of building	modern legislative process
		expansion of rights
Artifacts		
Installations	timeline (see content below)	timeline (see content below)
	building construction interactive - flat screen, dial for changing dates	
Timeline Suggested Content		
The Building	1858 and 86 annexes, 1902 addition	composition of HoD decoration of HoD chamber
The State	growth of state population	women's suffrage 1st MD AA representative
		1st MD female rep child labor
The Nation	immigration	19th Amendment

Space	7 New H of D	8.A Outside New Senate
Theme	Crafting Legislation	Crafting the Future
Chronology	1900-mid-20th century	mid-20th century-present
Function	modern legislative process	who works in this bldg
Artifacts		executive branch
		continued expansion of rights
Installations	Tiffany skylight	
	Portraits of Speakers	
	Marble colors	
Timeline	moveable panel	timeline (see content below)
Suggested Content		
The Building		decoration of Senate chamber Governor's office - kids' visiting
The State		2007 apology for slavery ratification of 14th and 15th amendments
The Nation		Thoroughgood Marshall (Mder) and Brown v. Board of Ed

Space	8 New Senate Chamber	8b Center of Hall	8c By exit door
Theme	Crafting the Future	Crafting the Future	Crafting the Future
Chronology	mid-20th century-present	mid-20th century-present	mid-20th century-present
Function	room decoration	students make a difference	you can make a difference
Artifacts			
	Decl. of Indepen. signer portraits	USS <i>Maryland</i> punch bowl	
	Carroll and Hanson statues		
	Portraits of Governors		
Installations	moveable panel		timeline (see content below)
Timeline			
Suggested Content			
The Building			door decoration Lawyer's Mall
The State			MD citizen action that made a State difference
The Nation			MD citizen action that made a national difference





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Exterior Banner



Timeline Graphic at Old Treasury Building

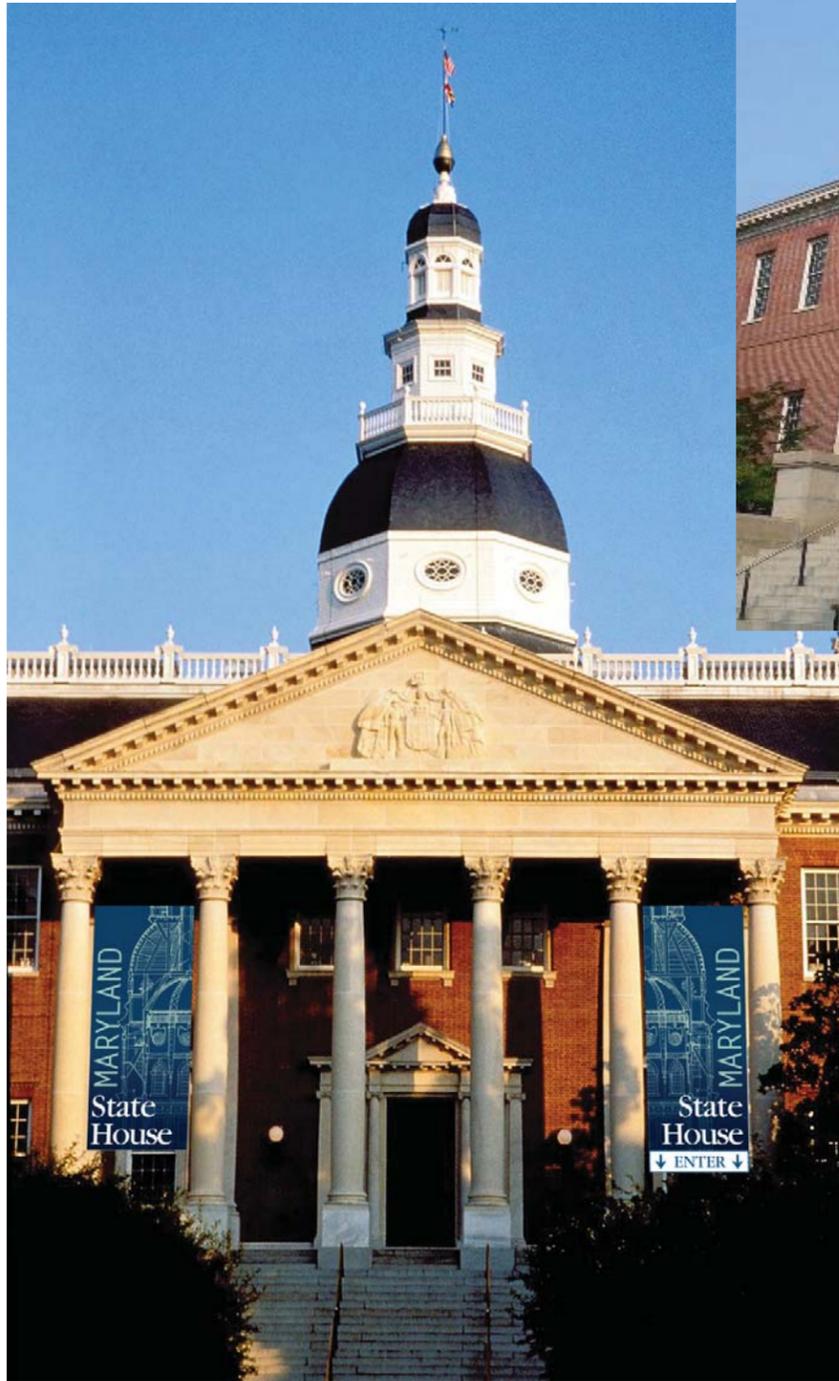


Taney Interpretive Graphic

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Exterior Signage



Large Facade Banners



Entrance Sign

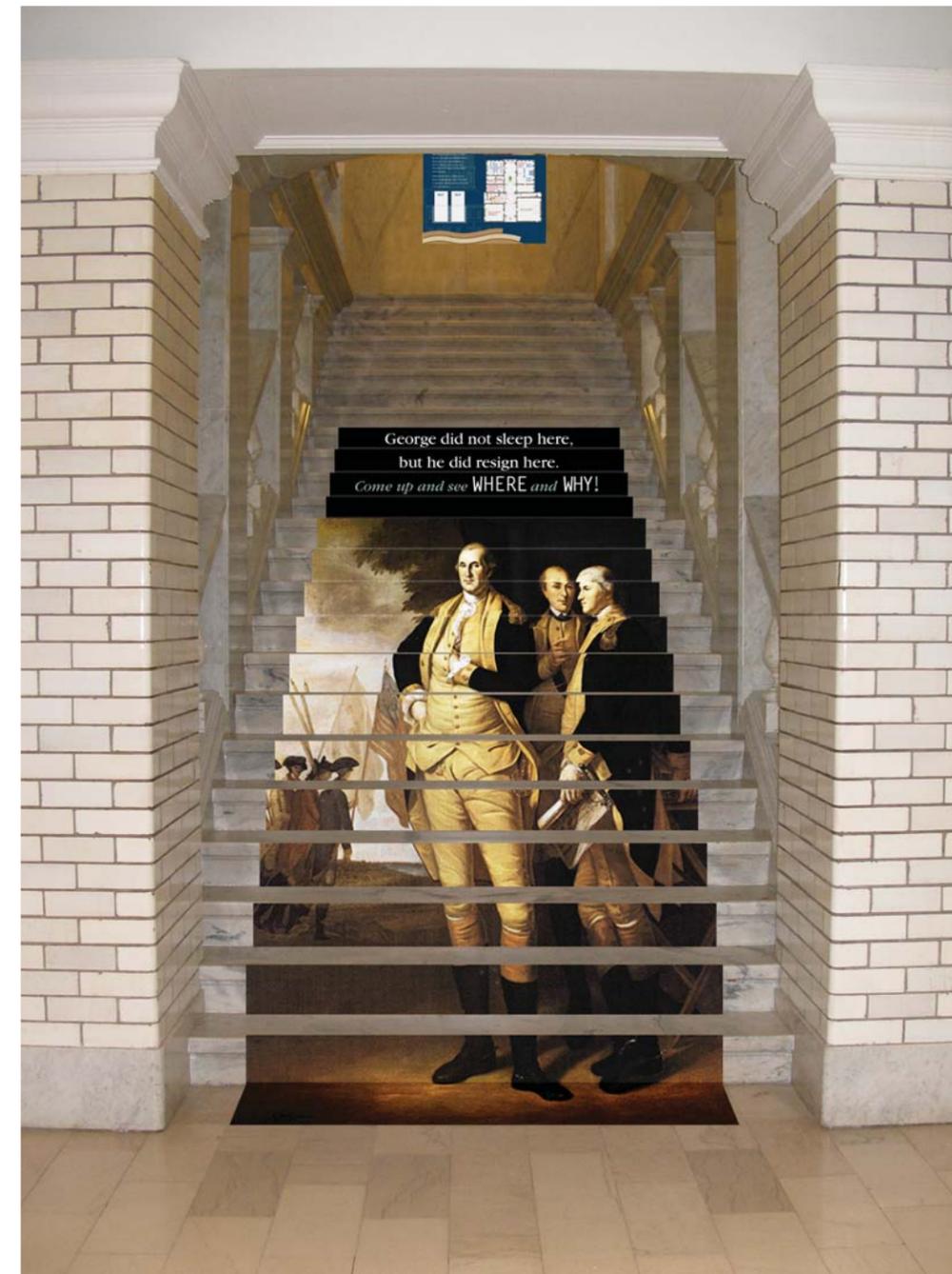
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New 1st Floor Entry Signage/Banners



First Floor Wayfinding and Floor Graphic



Step Riser Graphic leading to Second Floor

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1st Floor Floor Graphics/Wayfinding

36"

36"

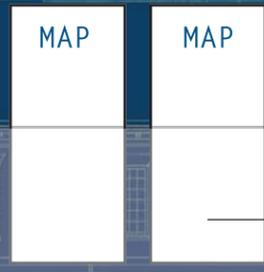
Welcome to the MARYLAND STATE HOUSE

Our Nation's First Peacetime Capitol

For four centuries, the actions of individuals in the Maryland State House reflected, impacted and influenced our Nation's History. It is the seat and site of critical decision-making about liberty, freedom and equality.

The Maryland State House is a place for civic discourse and debate where all people, from schoolchildren to elected officials, have a voice and understand the impact of art, politics and patriotism.

Maryland has been a religious and haven for immigrants, Irish to Scottish to Mexican, with the power to become a part of a nation.



Brochure Rack for Maps

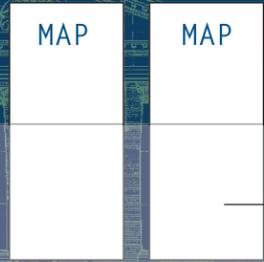
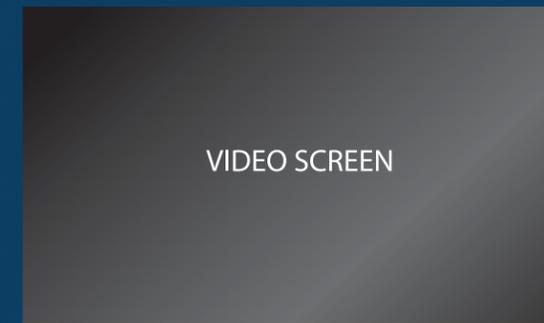
Intro Panel

Be a part of the MAKING OF MARYLAND

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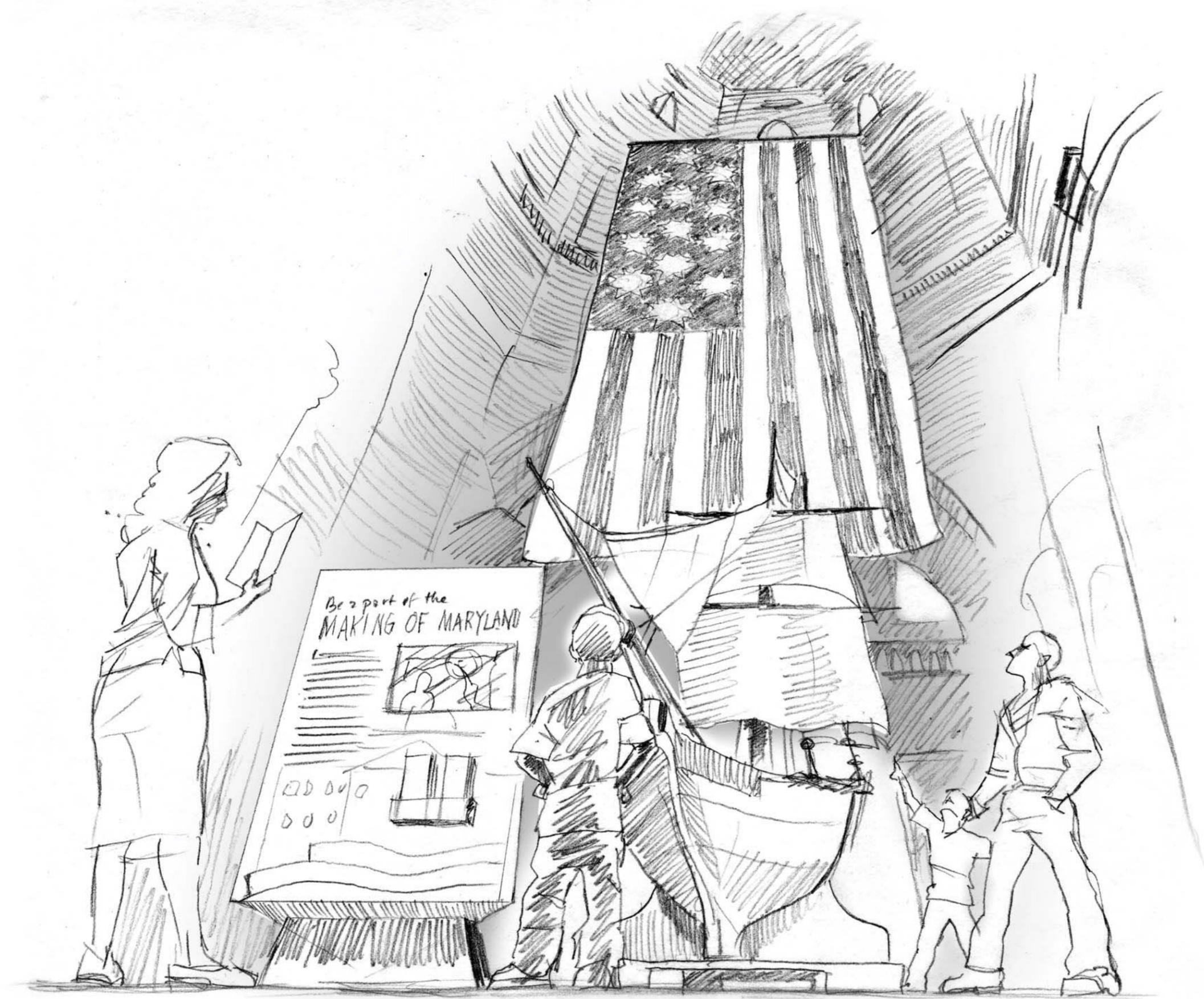
Brochure Rack for Maps

Intro Kiosk

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Intro Panel (top of steps) & Intro Kiosk (freestanding)



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Intro Kiosk (freestanding) Ship & Flag

50"

CRAFTING THE MARYLAND STATE HOUSE 1750-1800

The Maryland State House was built from 1772 to 1779, at a time when Annapolis was already nearly a century old. It was the third capitol building on this site. The soaring white dome, added

by Annapolis architect Joseph Clark, was erected between 1785 and 1789. To this day, it is still the largest, wooden pegged dome in the United States, rising 113 feet above where you now stand.

A Man of Many Talents



John Shaw, born in Glasgow, Scotland, had many careers during his residence in Annapolis: He was a cabinetmaker, an inventor, an undertaker, state armorer, a merchant,

and a City Councilman. In 1780, Shaw became the supervisor of the Maryland State House. He held this position faithfully for the next 39 years, and took care of every aspect of the building. A letter chest and desk from his "office" still survive.

View from the Dome

Many famous visitors—including Thomas Jefferson and James Madison—walked to the top of the State House Dome to look out over the capital. Maryland painter Charles Willson Peale, one of the finest artists in the colonies, was so impressed by the sight that he painted a mural of the city.



Fun Fact:

The gilded "acorn" on top of the State House dome holds the building's original lightning rod. Constructed according to the principles of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the rod was carefully encased in new wood in 1996.

THE BUILDING

Maryland's charter was granted in 1632, but its official northern boundary wasn't established until the next century. Named for the two British surveyors who mapped it, the Mason-Dixon line was drawn in 1767 to separate the land grants of the Calvert family in Maryland from those of the Penn family in Pennsylvania.



Mason and Dixon's survey settled more than 80 years of disputes. The new border was marked with stone pillars called "Crown Stones," placed every five miles. Later, the 233-mile line became the divider between the northern and the southern states, and no expansion of slavery was allowed above it.

Slavery in Maryland



Tobacco was the key to Maryland's wealth. In 1729, Lord Benedict Leonard Calvert wrote, "Tobacco, as our staple, is our all, and indeed leaves no room for anything else." Slave ships arriving at Annapolis City Dock brought men and women in chains to plant and harvest the colony's crop.



By 1750, the slave trade was well established, and by the end of the century, nearly 103,000 people—a third of the state's population—lived in bondage.



In 1774, lawmakers officially ended the colony's participation in the international slave trade, but the practice of slavery continued for another 90 years.

THE STATE

1767 MASON-DIXON LINE ESTABLISHED AS MARYLAND'S NORTHERN BOUNDARY

1774 OFFICIAL ENDING TO COLONY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared independence from Britain. Marylanders Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, William Paca, and Thomas Stone were among the signers.

It took another eight years and the conclusion of the American Revolutionary War before their freedom was secure. On January 14, 1784, Congress convened at the Maryland State House to ratify the Treaty of Paris, which established the United States as an independent and sovereign nation.

Maryland's Signers



Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832) was born in Annapolis and became a senator in the first U.S. Congress. He was the only Roman Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, and the last signer to die.



William Paca (1740-1799) who served as a mayor of Annapolis, also signed the Declaration. His home and garden, just a few blocks from here, are open to visitors.

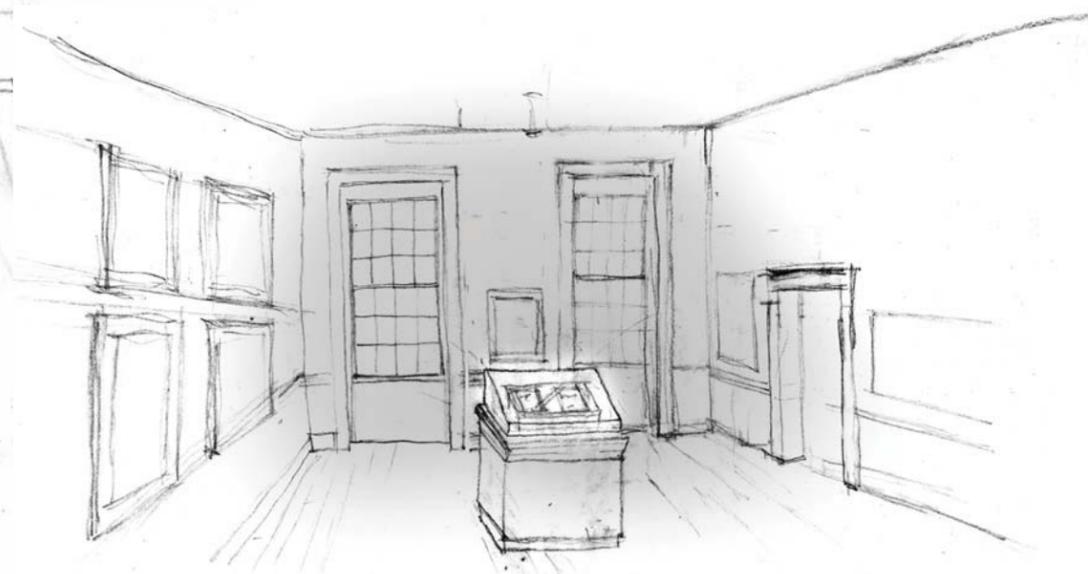
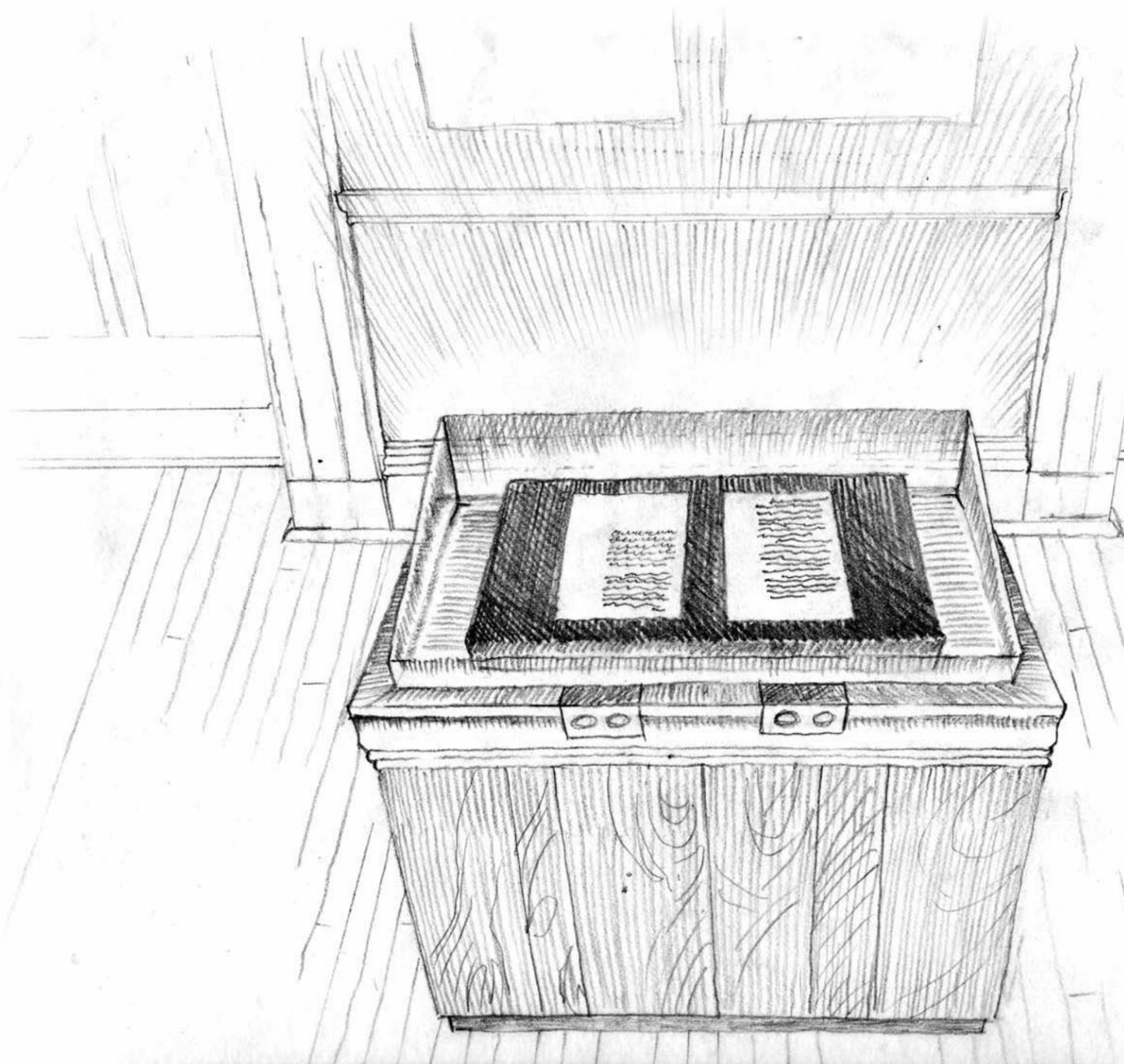
Fun Fact:

John Trumbull began painting "The Declaration of Independence" more than ten years after the event. He worked from a sketch presented to him by Thomas Jefferson, but some signers are missing from his version of the famous scene.



Flip Panel with picture of actual painting underneath.

24"



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Typical Case Design - Washington's Resignation Letter



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Old House of Delegates w/ Immersive Scrim Production

50"

CRAFTING LEGISLATION 1902-1950

Maryland's General Assembly has two parts—the House of Delegates, with 141 members, and the Senate, with 47. Both have their chambers here in the State House, and meet from January through April.

Members are elected by voters in their home districts to represent them, and introduce bills to promote residents' welfare. If a bill passes both houses, it goes to the governor for signature.



1904 MARYLAND STATE FLAG FORMALLY ADOPTED

The House of Delegates in the new annex, built 1902-6, was designed by architects Baldwin & Pennington. The Italian marble on the walls of the House of Delegates Chamber is an unusual rust and black coloring which approximates the gold and black of the Maryland state flag.

Fun Fact:

Maryland's flag is one of the most unique and colorful state flags in the nation. It flies over the State House whenever the General Assembly is in session. The design combines the coats of arms of the first baronet of Baltimore, George Calvert, and his wife, Alicia Crossland.



Maryland State Flag

THE BUILDING

In the early 1900s, many Marylanders sought rights and protections by petitioning the General Assembly. Legislators responded with laws that improved safety in mines; outlawed child laborers

under the age of 12; and made school attendance mandatory. Maryland women fought for suffrage (the right to vote), but did not gain that right until the U.S. Constitution was amended in 1919.

Women's Suffrage



Edith Hooker (1879-1948) founded the Just Government League in 1909 to encourage legislators to vote for women's suffrage. While the General Assembly defeated such a measure in 1910, the League grew to 17,000 members by 1915.



Albert C. Ritchie, a Democrat, was elected governor in 1918. He was re-elected four times, serving until 1934, and was one of the state's most popular chief executives. In his third try for a presidential nomination, he was defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Fun Fact:

Any adult employing a child against the law was fined up to \$100 paid to the School Commissioners of the district where the child lived to support the evening school. Parents were fined \$5 if their child was not in school on a regular basis.

THE STATE

At the start of the 20th century, the U.S. Congress also considered constitutional amendments about child labor and women's right to vote. The nation entered World War I, roared through the 1920s, and faced the Great Depression and World War II. All tested the resolve of Maryland citizens.

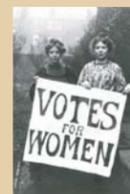
1902 ALL CHILDREN MUST ATTEND SCHOOL

1909 JUST GOVERNMENT LEAGUE FOUNDED

1912 CHILD LABOR LAWS

1919 MARYLAND WOMEN CAN VOTE

Women's Suffrage



In 1919, the U.S. Congress approved the 19th Amendment to give women the vote. It was sent to the states to ratify. Maryland rejected it, but the Amendment became law even in Maryland when Tennessee's assembly ratified it in 1920.

Laws for Children



Child labor and education were seen as issues for state regulation. Still in 1924 the U.S. Congress was petitioned by citizens, and passed, a constitutional amendment to ban child labor. It, however, was not ratified by enough states to become law.

Fun Fact:

The 19th Amendment almost was not ratified. In Tennessee, the state whose vote made women's right to vote law, the vote came down to one vote. The man, who voted affirmative, Harry Burn, was persuaded to do so by his mother.

THE NATION

1919 19TH AMMENDMENT APPROVED

EVALUATION PLANS

In preparing the Interpretive Outline for the Maryland State House exhibitions, visitor input was sought through a series of focus groups and visitor interviews. Due to timing of the evaluation efforts, the closing of the State House in March 2008, and the flow of visitors, a focus group with tour operators on November 28, 2007 functioned as a front-end survey, while one with teachers was part of the prototype process on April 22, 2008. That same day, visitors and staff were interviewed and classes observed during visits to the temporary exhibition “Four Centuries of Maryland History” on display in the House of Delegates Building.

The initial focus group was to contain 8-12 people who provide tours or services to visitors. Staff of the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property would invite legislative aides who give tours, visitor center tour guides, security officers, and commercial tour operators. During a 1-1/2 hour discussion, focus group participants would be asked who visits the Maryland State House and why these people might come. The participants also would be asked what they considered the “best stories” of the State House and their perceptions of the visitor experience there. (See script for complete question list.) The participants received refreshments and a small gift as an incentive.

For the second focus group, the plan was to invite between six and ten 3rd-6th grade school teachers who had brought groups previously to State House. These teachers would be identified by Watermark guides. In the end, we identified nine teachers by Watermark and by a web survey of surrounding school districts. Still, it was very difficult to reach these teachers, and the focus group moved from an initial date in November 2007 for a front-end survey to one in April 2008 that was formative in nature. Teachers were to explain how visits to the State House fit into their school curriculum and what sorts of opportunities and limitations they had on planning field trips. They also could illuminate students’ reactions to the visit. (See script for complete question list.) As an acknowledgment of their time in the focus group, teachers were provided with refreshments and an author-autographed book on the Wye Oak.

Each of the focus group participants also filled out a survey form before the discussion. The forms are included in this report with the focus group scripts.

The initial plan also included interviews with visitors – students and adults – and State House staff about their expectations for a State House exhibit and a formative survey of new interpretive panels. During the interview, researchers gathered basic demographic information and hoped to gain insight into visitors’ expectations of what to see and learn during a visit. Then the visitors would be asked to review two prototype reader rail panels designed for the Rotunda and Hall portions of the building. These panels would provide a historical timeline and overview of other exhibit areas. Researchers were interested in the readability of the panels as well as how well these panels helped address visitors’ interests. The interview script is attached.

**Maryland State House Focus Group
Pre-Discussion Survey
November 28, 2007**

Please fill out this short questionnaire before discussion begins.

1. How do you interact with visitors?
 - give tours through the Visitor Center
 - give tours through a tour company
 - provide security for the State House
 - work for a legislator

2. If you give tours, how many do you give on the average each month?
 - less than once a week
 - once or twice a week
 - more than twice a week

3. When is the biggest visitor season for you?
 - winter, during the legislative season
 - spring
 - summer
 - fall

4. Rank visitors by which ones you most interact with to those you least do. #1 is the audience you most work with' #1 the least.
 - school groups
 - families/tourists
 - adults/tourists
 - business visitors

5. Would say most of the tourists who come to the State House are from?
 - Annapolis and immediate area
 - Maryland, outside of Annapolis area
 - another state or country

Maryland State House Focus Group Script
Tour Guides
November 28, 2007

Welcome. I am Beth Twiss Houting, a consultant hired by the Maryland State Archives, to work on new concepts for exhibits in the State House. You will see that we have a note taker, but know it is only for study purposes; the proceedings today are anonymous and confidential.

We are pleased to have you join us so that we can better learn what the current visitor experience is in the State House and how it can be improved. There was a Master Plan done earlier this year by C & G Partners, and we are taking it to the next step.

[Ice-breaker] Before we get started, though, why don't you introduce yourselves by first name and how you work with visitors here at the State House. And then add what is your favorite thing about the State House you share with visitors, sort of your favorite story or tidbit of information.

Now turning to the visitors:

1. Why do you think people come to tour the State House?
2. What do they seem most interested in?
 - a. Historic importance?
 - b. Current legislative process?
3. What seems to please visitors most about their visit or what they learn here?
4. What seems to confuse them, or displease them about their visit?
5. What are the most frequent questions you hear?

Now I want to share a little bit of our planning and get your reactions.

6. This is the working mission statement for the State House visitor experience.
 - a. Does this capture the essence of the State House tour to you?
 - b. Would you think visitors would agree?
 - c. What in the statement seems odd or out-of-place to you?
7. Currently we are thinking of explaining different times in history in different spaces.
 - a. From what you know of the history of the building, do these time frames make sense in these spaces?
 - b. Since visitors might go into rooms in any order, do you see any problems with the flow logistically or content-wise?
8. One of our concerns is orienting visitors to what they will see here. If we were to create a short film or audio tour, what are the main points you think we should cover?
9. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for your time. [incentive]

**Maryland State House Focus Group
Pre-discussion Script
April 22, 2008**

Please fill out this short questionnaire before discussion begins.

Name of school district _____

Grade _____ Subject (if applicable) _____

1. For how long have you been bringing classes to the State House?

2006-7 was my first year

for 1-5 years

more than 5 years

2. How often do you bring classes?

once a year

once every two years

other _____

3. On the average, how many students are on the trip? _____

4. What time of year do you usually come?

Sept-Dec.

Jan.-March

April – June

5. What school curriculum unit complements your visit?

6. How many field trips a year do you take (including the State House)? _____

Maryland State House Focus Group Script
Educators
April 22, 2008

Welcome. I am Beth Twiss Houting, a consultant hired by the Maryland State Archives, to work on new concepts for exhibits in the State House. I am going to be taking notes, but they are for our study purposes only; the proceedings today are anonymous and confidential.

We are pleased to have you join us so that we can better learn what the current educational experience is in the State House and how it can be improved. There was a Master Plan done earlier this year by C & G Partners, and we are taking it to the next step.

[Ice-breaker] Before we get started, though, why don't you introduce yourselves by first name and tell what grade you teach. And then add what is personally your favorite thing about the State House.

Now turning to how you view the State House as an educational experience:

1. Why do you bring students here?
 - a. Are you most interested in the historical stories?
 - b. The legislative process?
 - c. Does the visit fit with Maryland Standards? If so, which ones?
2. How do you prepare your students for the visit?
3. How do you follow up back in the classroom?
4. What do you think is the main message students take away with them now?
5. What do you think is the most interesting thing they see or hear here?
6. The least interesting?

Now I want to share a little bit of our planning and get your reactions.

7. This is the working mission statement for the State House visitor experience.
 - a. Would this statement fit with your curricular needs?
 - b. What in the statement seems odd or out-of-place to you?
8. Currently we are thinking of explaining different times in history in different spaces.
 - a. From what you know of the history of the building, do these time frames make sense in these spaces?
 - b. Since visitors might go into rooms in any order, do you see any problems with the flow logistically?
 - i. What about when crowded?
 - ii. In terms of the historical story?
9. Review prototypes
10. If we created an audio tour for visitors to listen to as they went in and out of these spaces, do you think it would improve the student experience? Why or why not?
11. If we were to create new pre- and post-visit material on the web, what kinds of materials and information would help you the most?
12. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Thank you for your time. [incentive]

Formative Evaluation: Maryland State House

check: _male _adult
 _female _child

Adult Introduction:

I am testing out a new display technique for the State House. I would appreciate about 5 minutes of your time to get your opinion of the design.

Child introduction:

[to adult, if child under 18] I am testing out a new display technique for the State House and would like children's opinions too. May I have your permission to ask [this child] some questions for about 5 minutes? We'll do it right here. Thanks.

[to child] Hi! I am helping to create new displays to explain about this building. I'd like to ask you a few questions about how well you like it.

Before looking at panel:

1. Why did you come to the Maryland State House today?
2. [if tourist] What were you expecting to see or learn here?
3. [if tourist] What kinds of information are you more interested in?

Answers on card; may choose more than one

- i. Building history
- ii. Stories about craftsmen of the State House
- iii. State history
- iv. How legislature works
- v. Stories about lawmakers
- vi. Stories about other people who worked n State House
- vii. Stories about Maryland citizens, e.g. who had business in State House or suggested bills
- viii. What you can do as a citizen
- ix. National history

Looking at panel:

Now I would like to ask you to take a minute to look at this proposed exhibit panel.

4. Does anything on the panel stand out to you? _Yes _No
 - a. **Prompt** An image, a fact or a new way to think about the building/MD/Nation?
 - b. What?
5. Is it easy to understand that there are three layers of information presented - Building, State and Nation? _Yes _No
 - a. Why/why not?
6. Is text easy to read? _Yes _No
7. Are the images easy to see? _Yes _No
8. Does this display get at topics of interest for you? _Yes _No
 - a. **If yes**, which ones?
 - b. Of the stories there, which story most interests you?

9. Having looked at this sample panel, I'd like to ask you to look at this list of subjects again. Are there any subjects on the card but not covered on the panel, that you wish had been?

Answers on card; may choose more than one

- i. Building history
- ii. Stories about craftsmen of the State House
- iii. State history
- iv. How legislature works
- v. Stories about lawmakers
- vi. Stories about other people who worked in State House
- vii. Stories about Maryland citizens, e.g. who had business in State House or suggested bills
- viii. What you can do as a citizen
- ix. National history

Now, I would like to ask a couple questions about you. All information will be confidential and anonymous.

10. What is your zip code? _____
11. What is your age, as grouped on this card? **Choose one answer from the card**
- a. 6-11
 - b. 12-18
 - c. 19-25
 - d. 26-40
 - e. 41-60
 - f. 60-75
 - g. 75+
12. Have you ever visited here before? **Choose one answer from the card**
- a. Never
 - b. Once within the last year
 - c. Once longer ago than a year
 - d. Two or more times

FRONT-END FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Who attended the focus group ?

Sixteen people participated on November 28, 2007. Fifty-six percent of the participants (n = 9) worked for commercial tour companies, such as Watermark and Cap City Colonial. Thirty-one percent (n = 5) worked for state tourism-related agencies, such as the Department of Business and Economic Development and the Maryland Office of Tourism that staffs the Maryland State House Visitor Center. One other participant gave tours for Legislative Services, and two did not identify their employer. These people know the State House intimately as 56% give tours more than twice a week and 19% one to two times per week. Their busiest season for work is spring, with summer and fall tying for second.

When asked their favorite part of the State House or their favorite story to interpret, the sixteen participants gave twenty-eight responses. However, three topics had the most responses, ranking almost 20% each. The first topic was the exterior architecture of the building. Those giving this response indicated that the view of the State House as one approached, its siting within the City, and the architectural details were important to them to point out to visitors. The second topic indicated interest in the dome – its status as the nation's largest pegged wooden dome, the lightning rod, and the story of Dance falling to his death while working on its construction. The third topic identified the Old Senate Chamber as a favorite space within the State House as well as its story of George Washington's farewell.

Who are the visitors and what might they want in a State House visit?

The audience these guides most often worked with were school students or adult tourists. Families came next. People in the State House for business and foreign visitors were least often served. Forty-four percent of the visitors (n = 7) came from Maryland, but not the City of Annapolis. Thirty-one percent (n = 5) were from outside of the state. The remaining 25% was divided between Annapolis and no response. One focus group participant believed that student groups tended to be more often from Annapolis while adult tourists were more apt to be from outside of Maryland. One participant estimated that school groups counted for 50% of their audience.

Legislative Services guides did have a slightly different pattern from the norm. They more apt to work with people in the State House for business and foreign visitors and have a busy winter season when the representative branch was in session.

Guides believed visitors came mainly because the tours brought them there. The focus group participants did not think that tourists had much prior awareness of the State House, but came to Annapolis for the Naval Academy. One exception was foreign visitors who the guides felt had a better grasp of United States history than did the country's own citizens. Another exception were people who made a habit of touring state capitols. As far as school students, teachers booked a tour because their students were 4th graders studying Maryland history.

When asked in what topics they believed visitors seem most interested once they had seen the building, the focus group participants responded: the Old Senate Chamber, the dome, and the founding of Maryland. The first two topics are the same as two of the topics in which the guides themselves were most interested. The guides believe students are more interested in the dome, and adults in the Old Senate Chamber. Interestingly, despite the guides' emphasis on architecture, they thought visitors overall were more interested in history, especially presented in an "entertaining" way.

The guides felt that visitors were displeased or disappointed in certain aspects of their visit. In general, poor signage and visual confusion from the number of plaques on view led to poor wayfinding. Security procedures, crowding, and a lack of a place to sit made the visit uncomfortable.

What do the guides want out of a reinstatement of State House exhibits?

There was strong agreement on potential themes for a reinstatement of the State House exhibits:

1. that the building is the oldest capitol in continuous use,
2. that it was once the US capitol,
3. to explain the current legislative process, and
4. to point out the largest wooden dome in the nation.

The proposed mission statement was felt to capture most of these themes, and was complimented on its use of strong action verbs. Some of the participants wished, however, the statement made more reference to the architecture. One participant summed up the interpretive message as "what happened in those nine months [when the State House was the country's capitol] that shaped our history, and is unique to this state?" Another, however, cautioned that interpretation had to carefully distinguish Maryland's history from the country's.

Building upon the guides' favorite topics, they also wished for better preparation outside of the building, improved wayfinding, and the ability to walk visitors through all of the chambers. In a reinstatement, they hoped for rotating exhibits on topics such as the Civil War and the Underground Railroad, an orientation space with film, and benches for visitor seating. The guides stressed that the exhibits in the State House should relate only to the State House, which supported their interest in architecture but somewhat contradicts other of their responses.

In general, there was agreement that the State House becomes too crowded, especially in the spring, for visitors to truly appreciate the building and its exhibits. Guides wished groups could be limited to 20-30 visitors, but, when pressed, they really wanted this limitation to apply to the other guides, not themselves. Guides mentioned that the Archives Room exhibit was particularly good and needed to be moved to a larger space. In general, they approved of the chronological flow proposed for the exhibits, and they thought that audio, treasure hunts, and interactives would add "entertaining" aspects of the building.

Formative Interview Results

Who was interviewed?

Unfortunately it was very difficult to interview people visiting *Four Centuries of Maryland History* in the House of Delegates Building because of slow visitation mid-day and the number of visitors who came through with tour guides. The guides of these groups did not give visitors time to look around on their own, but moved them quickly from display to display. Only five adults, consequently were interviewed. One was a man over the age of 75 who was visiting from New Jersey with his wife. They make a hobby of visiting state capitols and were disappointed not to get into State House itself. Two others interviewed were women over the age of 65 from Pennsylvania. The fourth and fifth interviewees were employees of the State, one a sergeant who had policed the State House for over twenty years. Because of the reluctance of these people to undertake a whole interview, the surveyor focused only on the demographic information above, a question on topics of interest, and response to the prototype panel.

What did adult visitors hope to see in the State House?

Their answers were divided between wanting to learn about Maryland history and wanting to learn about current governmental process. In particular, they wanted to go inside the chambers of the governing bodies.

When asked to rank topics about which they wished to learn from a list of nine topics, building history and stories of Marylanders topped the list.

Topic (from list on survey)	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
Building history	3				
Citizenship		1			
Legislature			1		
Craftsmen		1		1	
State history		1			1
Stories of Marylanders			2		

What did visitors think about the prototype panels?

Overall, the adults responded favorably to the panels, though they doubted children visiting with families or school groups would be attracted to them. They found the color coding attractive and easy to understand. They also liked the reading rail height, which they compared to the platform height labels they saw with the George Washington display that day. Those labels were too hard to read, especially for the older adults with glasses.

Two adults, however, felt that the panels offered too much information with small type font and illustrations. The panels seemed to overwhelm them. They suggested that each banner within the panel have no more than three points. They also suggested a take-home brochure with the text so that they could read it at their leisure. The sergeant pointed out that visitors come with a variety of interests. He knew, for example, of some who visited because people they knew had been involved or commemorated in the State House.

School Evaluation Results

A review of Maryland curriculum standards

Maryland has voluntary Social Studies standards, upon which each district builds their own scope and sequence for teaching the subject matter. In planning the State House exhibit and complementary interpretive aids, such as the website, it is satisfying to see the number of places in which State House stories can bolster the curriculum.

Social Studies Curricular Area	Benchmark Grade*	Specific Subject
1. Political Science	3	Why have government The function of democracy
	4	Establishment of the colony Function of the Assemblies Tolerance Act of 1649 Maryland Charter of 1632 MD state constitutions Govt. role in public policy William Paca Charles Carroll Thomas Stone Samuel Chase Importance of civic participation Rights and responsibility of MD citizens
	5	Declaration of Independence US Constitution Colonial governmental policies Rights and responsibilities of US citizens Thomas Jefferson George Washington
	8	US Constitution Bill of Rights Washington's Farewell Address Emancipation Proclamation Civil rights
3. Geography: Peoples of the nation and world	4	Cultures of early settlers
	5	Compromise in drafting of US Constitution
	8	Diversity and tolerance
5. History	4	St. Mary's City Establishment of slavery Regional differences during Civil War
	5	American Revolution
	8	13th-15th Amendments Slavery and abolition Dred Scott decision
6. Social Studies skills and processes	All	Vocabulary Identification and analysis of primary sources Display of information in graphic organizers and maps

*Benchmark grade refers to the grade by which a topic must be taught.

What was learned from the teacher focus group?

Only two fourth grade teachers attended on April 22, 2008, but these two had brought field trips to the State House for more than 5 years. They visited between April and June and, on average, brought 110 students per trip. The State House trip was one of two or three trips the class would take each year. The trip complemented study of Maryland history, especially early settlement, the colonial period, Native Americans, and State government.

These two teachers happened to be involved in rewriting the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum for Anne Arundel County. They said that 4th grade was dedicated to Maryland history, geography and government. United States history from 1790 to 1877 was taught in 8th grade, United States government in 9th, and the rest of United States history in 11th. Due to their previous commitment to visiting the State House and their role in the focus group, the teachers said they would ensure that the State House trip was written into the County standards.

What did they think of the prototype panels?

The teachers especially liked the timeline idea. It matched a process they used for teaching history. While they acknowledged that the students on tours would not read these panels often, they saw the information as very useful. They wondered if the text could be on Web for teachers to use in preparing the students for their visit. One element of the panels that the teachers thought students might read would be the “fun facts.” Because their curriculum includes government, the teachers were pleased to see that the mission and the panels also addressed citizenship.

What was learned from class observations?

Two classes, each of roughly forty children, were observed on a guided tour in the House of Delegates Building on April 22, 2008. According to a chaperone, they were both 4th grade classes from either a school in Columbia or a school with Columbia in the name. The tour guide closely controlled the students’ experience repeatedly asking them to stay together as she led them from display to display. The evaluator’s request for time for the students to look at the prototype panels was politely ignored.

The two groups began their tours slightly differently in the left wing (earlier period of exhibit), but followed the same route in the right wing. One group stopped, in this order, at: the images of the Declaration of Independence, Peale’s drawings, the Federalist; the photograph of Treasury Building, the Calvert portraits, and The Planting of Maryland. The other group only stopped at the Declaration of Independence, the Calvert paintings, and the Peale drawings. The students seemed well prepared for the trip as they recognized the Declaration of Independence image from their dollar bills and they knew the identity of the Calverts.

After viewing the Washington mannequin display, both groups stopped, in this order, at: the Peale portrait of Washington, the USS Maryland silver, the labels about Henson and Martin Luther King, The Burning of the Peggy Stewart, and the photos the Senate and House chambers in the 19th century. The students obviously were impressed with the size and the story about the silver tureen.

Recommendations from the evaluation results

The bracketed points within this section are suggestions for how this interpretive plan can implement these recommendations.

1. The proposed mission and floor plan are fine.
 - a. [chronological flow for historical story]
 - b. [interweaving of national and state history and politics]
2. Use the following themes:
 - a. Architecture of building
 - i. Exterior and interior details
 - > [the top “banner” of the timeline labels]
 - > [add exterior labels that call attention to and explain architecture]
 - ii. Emphasize dome
 - > keep Archives Room exhibits but in larger space
[e.g. proposed move of dome model to Stairwell Room]
 - b. First peacetime capitol
 - i. Washington’s Farewell Address
 - > [allow visitors to walk through room]
 - c. Current legislative process
 - i. [all visitors to get into Chambers further]
 - ii. [stress that all citizen action can make a difference]
 - d. Founding of Maryland
 - i. [Treasury Building displays]
3. Explore themes through stories about specific Marylanders’ experience
 - a. [focus on famous people, esp. those in the curriculum standards]
 - b. [but also have information on common citizens who made a difference]
4. Create an orientation space with benches.
5. Add audio, handouts and/or interactives to the State House exhibits.
6. Improve wayfinding, both inside and out
7. Add seating for visitors throughout
8. Limit material on reader rail timeline so that font and images are large enough to be seen.
9. Keep artifacts and stories that fascinate students
 - a. [silver service for USS Maryland]
 - b. [images of Calverts]
 - c. “fun facts” on reader rail timelines]

DRAFT BUDGET

Opinion of Probable Cost

	Design Costs	Fabrication/Install	Total Cost
Signage			
Banners Exterior & interior	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
Exterior Signage System/Interp	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
Exhibit Design			
SH Timelines & Interior Graphics	\$40,000	\$180,000	\$220,000
Casework/replicas/Av Housing	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$60,000
Old Treasury Building Interp.	\$20,000	\$60,000	\$80,000
Reinstallation Artifacts/Mounts		\$50,000	\$50,000
(7) Bronzes (allotment)		\$400,000	\$400,000
Conservation Allotment		\$10,000	\$10,000
AV/Multimedia			
AV/Multimedia	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$90,000
Cell Phone Content	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Orientation Film (site filming)	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$50,000
Print			
Brochures/Maps	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Other Consultants			
Lighting/UV Films	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$65,000
Researcher/Writer/Editor	\$30,000		\$30,000
Further Evaluation	\$10,000		\$10,000
Contingency/Revisions	5%	\$55,000	\$55,000
Total	\$220,000	\$905,000	\$1,180,000
From C&G Original Budget (not included above)			
Branding Design Development	\$55,000	\$30,000	\$85,000
Website Redesign	\$45,000		\$45,000
Website database backend Gallery System		\$100,000	\$100,000
AV for Visitor's Center	\$45,000		\$45,000
Audio Guide Content	\$25,000		\$25,000
Listening Technologies Hardware		\$25,000	\$25,000
			\$325,000
Grand TOTAL			\$1,505,000