

LAURENCE-HALL-FOWLER
ARCHITECT

THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Office of the Secretary

Raleigh

September 22nd, 1934

Mrs. Margaret C. Taylor,
Director of Reference,
Enoch Pratt Free Library,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mrs. Taylor:

Dr. A. F. Kuhlman, Associate Director of the University of Chicago Libraries, has referred to me your letter of September 14th, inquiring whether any other State has erected a building solely for the housing of State documents.

Though my work with the Public Archives Commission of the American Historical Association has brought me into close relation with archival work in the country, I have not visited the various archival agencies and I hesitate to make an absolute statement in reply to your inquiry. However, not to my knowledge does any other State have a separate building devoted wholly and exclusively to state archives.

In many States no effort has been made to concentrate the state archives in any one place. In many other States concentration of non-current state archives is authorized as a function of an existing state agency, though in general the actual concentration has not proceeded very far. In Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Mississippi, West Virginia, Arkansas, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina centralization of non-current state archives is authorized in an independent, separate state agency. It is only in these states, I think, that it would be possible that a separate state archives building should exist. I know that there is no such building devoted wholly to state archives in Alabama, Georgia, Delaware, North Carolina and South Carolina, and I am quite positive that there is none in either of the others, though I hesitate to make an absolute statement. Perhaps you might write the Historical, Memorial and Art Department at Des Moines, the Department of Archives and History at Jackson, the Department of Archives and History at Charleston, W. Va., the Public Record Office at Trenton, the Historical Commission at Lansing, and the Historical Commission at Little Rock, for specific information. For ordinary purposes I would feel safe in making a definite negative answer, but for the important purpose for which the information is used, I write as I have above.