

HALL OF RECORDS.
Annapolis, Maryland.

The Hall of Records at Annapolis was erected by the State of Maryland to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the province. Two hundred thousand dollars had been appropriated by the legislature for the construction and equipment of a building to house, and make available for research, all surviving documents pertaining to the history of the state; and a site had been provided at the southwest end of the campus of St. John's College.

This site, by its very nature, offered a number of problems. The campus - a tree shaded green measuring 250' x 800' - is bordered on one of its long sides by a street - College Avenue - and on the other by a row of five brick buildings dating roughly from the middle of the 18th. century to the middle of the 19th., the central building, the oldest and largest, having a hip roof crowned by a cupola. At right angles to this row, closing one end of the college campus, stands the dignified little college library, designed in the Georgian manner, by T. Henry Randell, thirty five years ago. The site designated for the Hall of Records, at the other end of the college campus, naturally called for a structure somewhat similar in size and position, to take its place as one of the college group, and indeed, a condition actually attached to the use of the site required that the building to be erected there should have its principal facade and entrance facing the campus. While the sloping grade of the site made this condition somewhat troublesome, a greater difficulty was caused by the fact that the building, being for state rather than for college use, had to be readily accessible to the general public. Therefore the