

The Ancient City
1649 - 1887
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THE FIRST STATE HOUSE IN ANNAPOLIS:

(1696) "The foundation of the First State House in Annapolis was laid April 30, 1696.

(1697) On the 11th of June, 1697, the Legislature passed the following:

"Whereas, the Province hath been at great charge and expense in the building of a State House, or Public House of Judicature, at this Port of Annapolis, which is now almost finished and completed, and to the end that the said House and the several rooms and apartments therein, may in time present and to come, be applied and appropriated to the uses and purposes the same was designed for, and no other.

"Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the present General Assembly, and the authority of the same, that the said State House and the several rooms and apartments therein, for the time present and to come, be, and is hereby appointed and

THE SECOND STATE HOUSE IN ANNAPOLIS:

After the first State House was burned in 1704, a committee of the Legislature reported that the old walls could be built upon in "form and manner as before," and it was rebuilt by Mr. W. Bladen, the architect of the other buildings. The price was not to exceed 1,000 pounds sterling. Mr. Bladen was given the benefit of all "the materials saved out the fire which appertained to the old court house."

During the erection of this building the House of Delegates held its sessions in the house of Colonel Edward Dorsey, in Annapolis, the assembly meeting twice a day, from 8 o'clock to 12 A. M., and from 2 to 4 P. M., and was called together by the beating of a drum.