

The State House is situated upon a marked elevation in the centre of Annapolis. The eminence rises in gradual terraces to the edifice, which, though simple in architecture, has a lofty and majestic appearance, and has in all times "elicited alike the admiration of the citizen, the sojourner, and the stranger for the beauty of its structure."

The main building is of brick, the dome of wood. From the dome to the State House, 125 feet from the top of the Hill, a most delightful view is obtained. The majestic Chesapeake and a hundred tributaries, their bosoms covered with endless varieties of busy water craft; the ancient city; its environs; the Naval Academy -- its ships of war; -- the contiguous country with its sloping hills and variegated plains, for an extent of thirty miles, gratify the eye of the delighted spectator.

The main entrance of the State House is through a modest porch, facing southeast. It opens into a spacious hall, beautifully ornamented with stucco work which was made from plaster brought from St. Mary's county.

On the right hand is the Senate Chamber, 30 by 40 feet. Its ceiling and walls are handsomely ornamented, and rich carpets cover its floors. It has accommodations for twenty-six Senators, and a contracted lobby gives room for a small number of auditors. Portraits at full length of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, William Paca, and Thomas Stone, signers of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland, adorn the walls.

In 1876, this chamber was improved by order of the Board of Public Works. The old gallery that linked the room with the great past was torn down and carried to the cellar, and the State acquiesced in a profanation it had never ordered.

In the room adjoining the Senate is a portrait of the elder Pitt, in which Lord Chatham is represented at full length in the attitude and costume of a Roman orator -- decorated with emblems of his lofty principles. This portrait was painted by Charles Wilson Peale whilst in