

Normal School Building in Baltimore. Governor Warfield was anxious that, as far as was practicable, all State departments should be located in Annapolis, and gave instructions that the State Department of Education be moved there and located in this building, where it still remains. This gives the old building a continuous record of service of more than 220 years for executive and administrative purposes. There are older buildings in the United States which are now preserved as museums, or for other purposes, but we think we are safe in saying that there is no building in the United States that has been used for so long a period by a Colony and State.

The building in early times was used as a place to receive distinguished visitors. On one occasion, after the surrender of Cornwallis and before the Treaty of Peace was signed with England, Washington and Lafayette visited Annapolis and were given a reception in the main room of the building by the Governor and people of Annapolis. It had been planned to have a dance on that evening, but after the elite of Annapolis had assembled, it was found that the building was too small for the purpose - the dance was consequently held in the town assembly rooms.

What is probably the most important event, historically, connected with the building was the meeting of what is known as the Annapolis Convention. After the Revolutionary War was over and the causes which had held the thirteen Colonies together during the Revolutionary War somewhat removed, difficulties and disputes began to arise between the new States, which, for a time, threatened their dissolution. It became evident that the Articles of Confederation, which had held these States together during the war, did not prove a strong enough central government. The difficulties arising were matters of common discussion, and Maryland called a meeting of delegates from each of the thirteen States to meet at Annapolis during the summer of 1786. The meeting was held, but only five of the States sent representatives, Maryland not being