

one of them. The defects of the Articles of Confederation were fully discussed at the sessions which were held in the old Council House. A complete basis for a revision of the document was worked out, but the convention decided to take no final action, and sent out calls for a convention to be held in Philadelphia the following year, when it was hoped that all of the new States would be represented. This meeting was held and all of the States were represented, with the exception of Rhode Island, and our present Federal Constitution was the work of the Philadelphia meeting. It is reasonable to infer that the Philadelphia meeting might never have been held, or at least not at that time, had it not been for the Annapolis meeting held the year previous. We feel that we are fair in claiming that this old building is the real parent of our Federal Constitution.

Its interior has been changed from time to time and on one occasion (about forty years ago) the Colonial atmosphere was completely destroyed by decorating the rooms in bright colors and the most modern stucco work. The beautiful old fireplaces were torn out and replaced by glazed tiling -- at this time the flat ceilings were removed and the (original arched ceilings) were restored. The work was left to laborers, and great bundles of records which had been stored away in this attic probably during Colonial times were carried to another building, thrown into the furnace and burned. A few papers which had dropped from these bundles were picked up by the Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and among these was found a letter from Benjamin Franklin to Governor Smallwood, of Maryland, and also a letter from Thomas Jefferson addressed to General Washington, but no one knows just what valuable records of the Colony were destroyed at this single stroke.

Since the State Department of Education has occupied the building, the brick fireplaces have been restored, ^{not to the original} and the whole interior refinished -- adopting a scheme of colors which may never have been used in this particular building, but which are known to be colonial, giving the interior an atmosphere