

ANNALS OF ANNAPOLIS

by

David Ridgely

In October of 1769, Mr. William Eddis, (the surveyor of the customs at Annapolis,) writing home to his friends, describes Annapolis and its public buildings, thus:

The court-house, situated on an eminence at the back of the town, commands a variety of views highly interesting; the entrance of the Severn, the majestic Chesapeake, and the eastern shore of Maryland, being all united in one resplendent assemblage, vessels of various sizes and figures are continually floating before the eye; which, while they add to the beauty of the scene, excite ideas of the most pleasing nature.

In the court-house, the representatives of the people assemble, for the dispatch of provincial business. The courts of justice are also held here, and here likewise the public offices are established.

This building has nothing in its appearance expressive of the great purposes to which it is appropriated, and by a strange neglect, is suffered to fall continually into decay, being, both without and within, an emblem of public poverty, and at the same time a severe reflection on the government of this country, which, it seems, is considerably richer than the generality of the American provinces.

The council-chamber is a detached building, adjacent to the former, on a very humble scale. It contains one tolerable room, for the reception of the governor and council, who meet here during the sitting of the assembly, and whose concurrence is necessary in passing all laws.

(Copied from Pages 143 and 144, Annals of Annapolis by David Ridgely, published 1841)