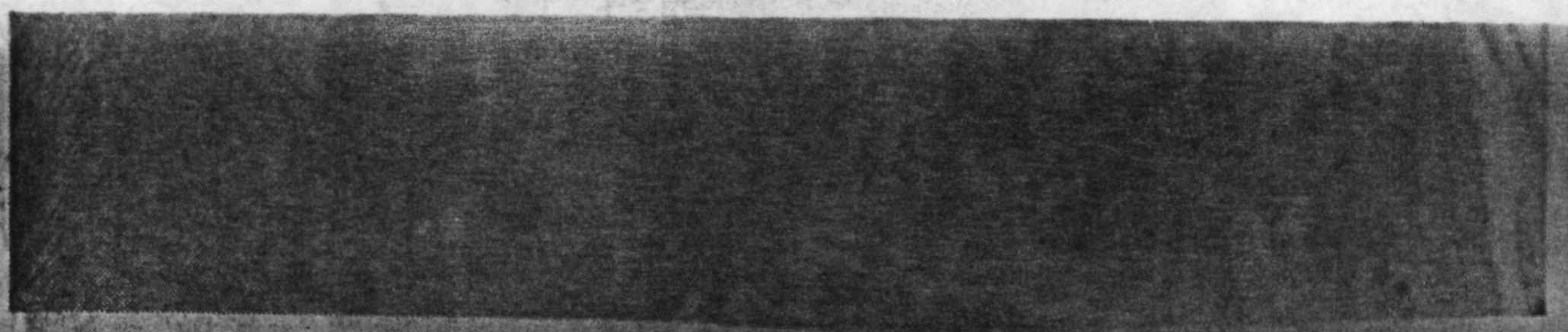


GUARDED AGAINST FIRE—Almost imperceptible from the ground, rings of sprinklers are attached to each level of the State House dome. A touch of a button and tons of water drench the wooden hull. This photograph was taken during one of the semiannual tests of the fire equipment in the State House, the oldest Capitol still in use in the United States.



A BEACON BY NIGHT—Floodlights, installed during Gov. McKeldin's administration, etch the outline of the State House against the nighttime skies.

Annapolis Opens Its Colonial Doors In Heritage Week

Thousands Expected for Tours In Third Annual Celebration

By GEORGE FLYNN
Star Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Oct. 4.—The brick pavements of Colonial Annapolis will echo this week to the steps of thousands of visitors as the city displays its historic sites and throws open the doors of its fine homes for the third annual Heritage Week.

Beginning tomorrow, guided walking tours of Maryland's State Capital will take place at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., through areas that once won Annapolis the accolade, "the Athens of America."

Open house tours are scheduled today and next Saturday and Sunday, with a candlelight tour and Colonial dinner on Thursday, and a Heritage Show featuring a display of antiques associated with Annapolis history.

Wednesday will be Naval Academy Day, when visitors will be shown the buildings and grounds of the school on the banks of the Severn and be given reserved seats for the dress parade of the brigade of midshipmen.

In addition to the mansions for which the port city is famous — Hammond-Harwood, Brice House and the Chase Lloyd House — the tour will include the Carroll the Barrister House, under restoration on the campus of St. John's College, and Ogle Hall, the scene of many social functions in pre-Revolutionary Annapolis. A number of private homes also will be open today, and next Saturday and Sunday.

Architectural Triumph

Overlooking the tour scene will be the State House, one of America's most stately buildings, a great surviving triumph of Colonial architecture. To visitors to Annapolis for the first time, it looms as a delightful surprise.

The oldest State capitol still in use, the building harbored great events in history. In the old Senate chamber, still intact, George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army on December 23, 1783. A few weeks later, the treaty with England ending the Revolutionary War was approved.

The State House tells the story of the character and ingenuity of Colonial Americans. Built in the days before power equipment, the building displays craftsmanship so precise that students of design and construction consider it a model.

The white-topped dome, a beacon to landlubbers and sailors alike, especially shows imagination of a high order. The builder had to raise two shells 116 feet above the two-story main portion of the building, carrying an enormous weight over an open space.

For many years architectural researchers and historians have tried to track down the identity of the man who achieved the miracle of the dome, which has been called by one prominent architect "the most elaborate



CITY'S OLDEST FRAME HOUSE—The Sands House, which Heritage Week visitors to Annapolis will see on their walking tours, was built in 1860 from forest trees in the area. Descendants of the family still live in the house on Prince George street.—Star Staff and Warren Photos.

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