

THE MARYLAND STATE HOUSE



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The artwork and memorials of the Nation's early history are writ large in the chambers and on the grounds of Maryland's State Capitol buildings. The Maryland State House is unique. It is the oldest one in the nation in continuous legislative use (the cornerstone for this third building was dedicated in 1772) and the only one to have served as the first peacetime Capital of the United States (1783-1784).

2 THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER

In this building George Washington resigned his commission as General of the Continental Army on December 23, 1783 forever establishing the new nation's civil government. The **Old Senate Chamber** where this occurred has been restored to its 1783 design. Here, too, the Treaty of Paris recognizing America's independence ending the Revolutionary war, was ratified.





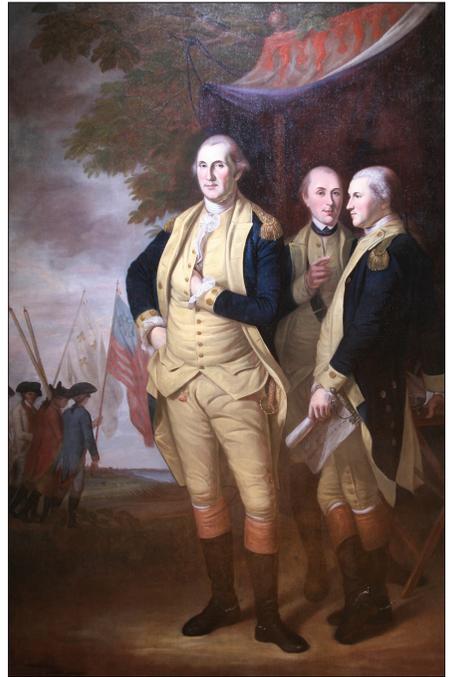
Photo: Joseph Romeo

3 THE OLD HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHAMBER

Across the marble central hall that divides the building, the [Old House of Delegates Chamber](#) has been restored to its 1876 design. In this chamber, Maryland passed the 1864 Act that abolished slavery in the State. Nearby the current Delegates and Senators meet in legislative session from January to April each year. The Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices are on the second floor. And above it all towers a mighty dome constructed without nails and with a lightening rod designed by Benjamin Franklin.

4 ART IN THE STATE HOUSE

The State House itself contains a remarkable collection of art illustrating four centuries of history. [Charles Willson Peale](#) (1741-1827) noted artist of the most popular portrait of President George Washington lived in Annapolis. He left his legacy in the portraits of Maryland governors William Paca, William Smallwood, John Eager Howard, Thomas Johnson, Jr., George Plater and John Hoskins Stone which are now on display in the State House along with the 1784 painting of [Washington, Lafayette and Tilghman at Yorktown](#).



[Washington, Lafayette, & Tilghman at Yorktown](#),
1784

[Charles Willson Peale](#) (1741-1827)
Oil on canvas
Collection of the Maryland State Archives



The Planting of the Colony of Maryland,
1893
Francis Blackwell Mayer (1827-1899)
Oil on canvas
Collection of the Maryland State Archives



Paintings of *The Planting of the Colony* portraying the first colonists arrival in 1634 and *The Burning of the Peggy Stewart* depicting the October 19, 1774 action forced upon Anthony Stewart by a mob opposed to British taxation were produced by *Francis Blackwell Mayer* (1827-99) whose studio was in the current historic Shiplap House on Pinkney Street.

The Burning of the Peggy Stewart, 1896
Francis Blackwell Mayer (1827-1899)
Oil on canvas
Collection of the Maryland State Archives



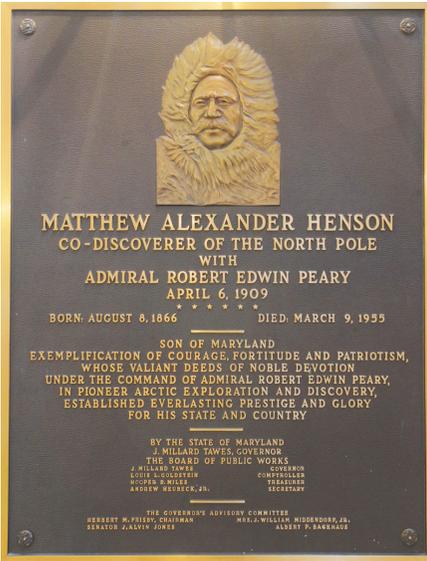
Elsewhere is a painting by **Edwin White** (1817-77) commissioned by the Maryland Legislature in 1857 of *Washington Resigning His Commission*. Works by **Thomas Sully** (1783-1872), and **John Beale Bordley** (1800-82), are present throughout the State House.

Washington Resigning His Commission, 1858
Edwin White (1817-1877)
Oil on canvas
Collection of the Maryland State Archives



The paintings join **Tiffany stained glass**, the **Sterling Silver Service** created for the USS *Maryland* in 1906 by Baltimore **Samuel Kirk and Sons**.

Bronze sculptures and memorial plaques are located throughout the State House and its grounds. The new office buildings for the Senate and the House of Delegates feature permanent and changing artwork exhibits. The artwork and memorials of Maryland's State House can command one's attention for many hours. Here 300 years of the nation's history comes to life.



*Memorial Plaque to Matthew Henson
(1866-1955), 1961
Bronze
Collection of the Maryland State Archives*

*George Washington's Resignation Speech
December 23, 1783
Ink on paper
Collection of the Maryland State Archives*



*George Washington, 2014
StudioEIS
Bronze*

