

County in heighth & breadth & Every Way proportionable according to the pitch & size of the sd. house & to planke it With sawn planke under foote & over head, & to seile the Lower rooms as the rest of the house is, & to erect a seat of Judicature With turned woode as at the Provintiall Court, & to Make a table Eight foote in Length & six foote in breadth, & to make a Convenient place for the placing of his Lorsps. arms. And further the sd. Michaell Ashford doth promise & engage upon his credit, to doe it desently & Comendable & to finish the sd. worke by March Court next Coming. In Consideration whereof the sd. Comission^{ers} doth hereby engage & promise to pay unto the sd. Michaell Ashford for the doeing & finishing the sd. worke the sume of ten thousand pounds of tobaccoe to be Levyed in the County Levy this yeare, & the sd. ten thousand pounds of tobaccoe lye in the hands of Coll^o. Wm. Chandler sherife, untill such as that the Comission^{ers} doe order him to pay it unto the sd. Michaell Ashford.¹⁴

In 1697, it was reported that “the Court house of this County is old & wants Repairing.”¹⁵ Extensive repairs and additions were authorized in 1699 and this time the contract was awarded to Hugh Teares :

Proposalls how the Court House of Charles County is to be Repaired as ffolloweth

The Court House is to be new Posted and new Groundselld & all the Lower floore to be made new; wth new Sleepers & to be Laid with new Planck & to be new Weather Boarded all Round ffrom Bottom to the Topp & to be new Covered & the Chimney to be Taken away & made up according to the Worke of the House &c:

The Chamber over the Seate of Judicature to [be] Cieleed with Clapp board & fitted ffor A Lodging Chamber &c:

The Old paire of Staires to be Taken down & a new paire of halfe pac'd Large Staires to be Erected where the Justices shall think most Convenient under the said Roofe & all Window fframes & shutters to be new made & a Window to be Out [cut ?] at the Gable End where the Chymney now stands & the Porch of the said House to be fitted & Repaired according to the house &c:

Also a Twenty ffoot square new Roome to be made on the Back side of the said Court house opposite to the Porch with an Outside Chimney & Clossett at the End of the said Roome to be Planck'd below & above & Cieleed above & below with Clapp board with Convenient Windowes & Shutters & the said Roome to be of the same Dimensions ffor highth wth the Court house &c. And also to make & Build a Cage of Twelve ffoot square sufficient & strong to secure Prisoners In And also to make Good & sufficient the Pillory & Stocks

The New Roome not to be fframed Worke but with Posts In the Ground of Locust strong and Sufficiently Built

The Justices ffather Thinks ffit That the Two Old Houses upon the new Court House Land (fformerly M^r Hussey's) be fitted & made up Tight & Strong ffor Stables to secure the Commissioners Officers & Suitors Horses &c: wth Convenient Partitions Racks & Mangers &c:

M^r Hugh Teares proposeth The doing of the said Worke ffor which he Demands Twenty Seaven Thousand five Hundred pounds of Tobacco to be p^d. at two Equall payments the One halfe this yeare and the other halfe next yeare following and all the said Worke to be fully ffinnished Completed & Ended by the Last Day of Aprill In the yeare One Thousand & Seaven Hundred upon the penalty & fforfeiture of fifty ffive Thousand pounds of Tobacco—upon the Non Performance thereof; The said Hugh Teares is to begin & proceed forthwith about the fitting & repairing the Lower part of the Court House & to ffinnish the same by the last day of March Next &c:

The said Hugh Teares is to ffinde Provisions Timber Attendance & all other Materialls, (Nailes & all other Iron Worke only Excepted) which the County is to ffinde & provide ffor the doing and performing the said Worke &c: ¹⁶

In 1697, Joseph Manning was asked by the court to survey the land on which the public buildings stood and to prepare a plat for insertion in the records. This plat was submitted September 16, 1697, and was copied into the land records of the County.¹⁷ The courthouse shown on this plat is a cross-type clapboard structure with a high pitched roof and a large

¹⁴ Charles County Land Records, Liber K No. 1, 19-20, Ms.

¹⁵ Court Proceedings, Liber V No. 1, 276, Ms.

¹⁶ Court Proceedings, Liber X No. 1, f. 192, Ms.

¹⁷ Liber V No. 1, 277.