

was translated into a petition to the General Assembly asking for authorization to levy up to \$10,000 for this purpose. This petition was granted, as was another of the next year, which permitted the Levy Court to borrow up to the full sum allowed in advance of the collections of the levy.¹⁵ According to the editor of the Montgomery County volume of the *Inventory of the County and Town Archives of Maryland*, (No. 15), this courthouse was finished in 1840. Neither he nor this writer has been able to find a description of the building or any information about its cost or the name of the architect and the builder. We do know, however, that it had two one-story wings, because in 1872 the county commissioners of Montgomery County were authorized "to raise the two wings of the Court House of said county, in Rockville, to the square of the main building, and to finish the same suitable to be occupied as rooms for the County Commissioners, the Grand Jury or such other purposes as the public interest may require" ¹⁶

Third Courthouse at Rockville

The space provided by these additions proved to be adequate for the needs of the county for another twenty years when it became obvious that no further additions or annexes would be economical. Thereupon the General Assembly was asked for, and it granted, permission to raze the old courthouse as well as the building occupied by the county school commissioners and to build a new fireproof courthouse which would also accommodate the school commissioners.¹⁷ For this purpose a bond issue of \$50,000 was authorized as well as the expenditure of any proceeds derived from the materials of the two old buildings. The contractor was to be the lowest bidder and he was to agree to have the building ready for occupancy by October 1, 1891. This third courthouse in Rockville is still standing and forms an annex to the fourth courthouse. Frank E. Davis was the architect and Thomas P. Johns the contractor. It is a three-story red brick building surmounted by a tower. It was never fireproof, nor could it be considered handsome or graceful even by the criteria of that day.

Fourth Courthouse at Rockville

By 1929, the county government had again outgrown its office space. In that year a bond issue was authorized for a new building and for the purchase of an additional triangle of ground close by the old courthouse.¹⁸ When the funds provided in this act proved to be insufficient, supplementary funds were authorized at the next General Assembly.¹⁹ The courthouse which resulted was designed by Delos H. Smith and Thomas R. Edwards of Washington and built by the J. J. McDevitt Company of Charlotte, North Carolina. "It is constructed of Indiana limestone in the classic tradition. This style as known in modern work is distinguished by the use of columns, cornice and the regular repetition of piers or pilasters, which accent the facade in a series of vertical divisions which contain windows and are symmetrical on either side of a central axis. Exterior steps form the base of a portico of four monolithic columns in the Ionic order, with a pediment above. It was built in 1931 at a cost exceeding \$500,000, and is completely fireproof."²⁰ The old courthouse was retained and is also used for county purposes along with a new county building which was finished in 1953.

¹⁵ Ch. 164 ; Ch. 237, Acts of 1836.

¹⁶ Ch. 76.

¹⁷ Ch. 41, Acts of 1890.

¹⁸ Ch. 349.

¹⁹ Ch. 330, Acts of 1931.

²⁰ Charles B. Hirschfeld, Editor, *Inventory of the County and Town Archives of Maryland*, No. 15, Montgomery County, Baltimore, 1939, p. 31.