

Pitch^t. the first twelve foote in the cleere the second nine-foote & the third Eight foote with an Italion or hip^t. Roofe with Lutarnes hip^t. with twelve Archtryve Windowes in the two Cleere storyes with Cornishes over the heads of the Windowes two of them in the Court Hall of eight foote by seaven the Rest five by six with seaven or eight Lutarne Windowes in the Roofe together with two stacks of brick Chimneys of fower harths of eight foote within the Gaumes with a fayre open vill [well] stare Casse up unto the Roofe haveing severall partitions with folding Wenscoatt dores where nessiary the lower Dores p[b]olectioned with two chimney pieces for the lower roomes The Court Hall to be wenscoated Raild & banisterd seald & inclosed in such forme & manner & as Comendable as in the Provinciaall State House with good & sufficient light Clapboard Covering & Weather Boarding with a Second Covering the second yeare after finished the whole building to be pform'd & finished att his the s^d Swetnams owne Charge saving Glass hooks hinges boltes & locks onely excepted; with all brick laying & plastering worke & under Pining with brick or stone w^{ch} is to be done by some knowne workman who is suffitiently to Calk Render wash & stopp the whole building & Prime the Windowes in Oyle Coll: Philemon Loyd to provide & finde him Colores that the whole woorke to be substantially built woorkman Like & that all the severall timbers therto be good proportion & of such regular scanling as shall be reasonably advised by any good Archytecktare in Consideration of w^{ch} bargains Cove-nants Promises Articles & agreements of the part of the s^d. Richard Swetnam by him his heysr Execut^{rs} or Adm^{rs} well & truly to be pformed fulfilled & kept as afores^d the s^d. Richard Woolman Major William Coursey Coll: Philemon Loyd Edward Mann Capt. George Cooly James Murphy William Combes Comission^{rs} for the County afores^d have agreed to pay in behalfe of the s^d County unto him the s^d Richard Swetnam his heysr ex^{ors} Adm^{rs} or assignes one hundred & thirty thousand pounds of tobacco one Moyty att the sealing & delivery of these presents⁵

This building seems to have been completed before 1685.⁶ The settlement which built up around it came to be known as York, and from time to time facilities for lodging and vic-tualling of man and beast expanded to meet the needs of a growing population. The courthouse itself ministered to some of the needs, for in spite of the court order of 1684, an ordinary was kept in the courthouse and in 1697 it returned a fair revenue to the county.⁷

An act of 1706 provided for the erection of Queen Anne's County.⁸ When the lines had been settled, York was still in Talbot County but on the edge rather than in the center as theretofore. At the court session of August 21, 1706, a commission was appointed to select a new site for the county seat and the last session of court was held at York on June 17, 1707.

First Courthouse at Easton

The next court met at Oxford on August 19 following, in the house of Daniel Sherwood, where it continued to meet at least through November 1708 and probably for the duration of the Oxford period. In the meanwhile, at November Court of 1706, the courthouse was rented to Ralph Stevenson until it was demolished in November 1708, and the lead from the roof sold to John Sherwood. It was apparently the intention of the commission to make Oxford the county town. Accordingly, town lots were resurveyed and some other preparations made. At

⁵ *Talbot County Judgments, 1675-1682*, ff. 494-95, *Ms.*, and cited in Tilghman, II, 212-13.

⁶ Some changes in the original plans, among them an enlarge-ment of the porch, as well as the names of several suppliers are found in the *Judgments* record of 1682-1685 as follows:

To Mr. Sweatnam for addition to the Porch to the Court House . . .

This Court hath ordered that Col. Philemon Lloyd send to England for the Statute Books as the Lawe provides, together with glass hooks and hinges and oyle for the County House.

16 January 1683.

To Major Wm. Coursey for Timber to Double Cover the County House . . .

16 January 1683

To Richard Jones for Hooks and hinges for the County House According to Mr. Sweatnam's direction . . .

16 January 1683

To William Coursey for Laying out the County Land . . . 16 day of (?) 1684

Ordered by this Court that noe Drink be sold in the Court House or Drunk there during the Sitting of the Court on forfeiture of two shillings six pence for every Pott or Bottle of Drink sold during the sitting of the Court as aforesaid.

To Col. Lloyd for Lead-glass and other thins for the Court House . . .

To Richard Sweatnam for part of his last payment for Building the Court House . . .

Nov. 17, 1685

To Wm. Wrench for Glazeing the Court House . . .

⁷ *Arch. of Md.*, XXII, 102-03.

⁸ Ch. 3, April Session.