

the county \$5,000 each. Colonel William J. Leonard paid in his pledge immediately and the work was begun. But the other four, for various reasons, did not make good their pledges and the county was faced with a new stalemate. For several weeks the work stopped altogether while the unpaid workmen struck. However, within a short time sufficient funds were raised both to finish the courthouse and to repay Colonel Leonard.<sup>7</sup>

## Courthouse at Salisbury with Additions

The courthouse of 1878 inspired the admiration of the staunch mid-Victorians of Wicomico County, but whatever its esthetic value, it proved adequate for its purpose until well into the present century. A vault was built for the Clerk of Court in 1905 but apparently no enlargement of the building was involved.<sup>8</sup>

By the third decade of this century, it became obvious that it needed to be replaced or enlarged. But by then Wicomico County, like the rest of the country, found itself lacking in funds. When funds did become available through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, the county took advantage of the opportunity to enlarge the courthouse. W. Twilley and John A. Malone and Ralph W. Williams of Salisbury were the architects for this extensive addition, which includes a fourth-floor prison, and Seymour Ruff and Sons, Incorporated, were the contractors. The work was done in 1936, and while the courthouse is again becoming crowded, it is still far from obsolete.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Truitt, *op. cit.*, pp. 99-100.

<sup>9</sup> *Inventory of County and Town Archives*, p. 32.

<sup>8</sup> *Minute Book, County Commissioners, 1896-1908*, pp. 245, 248, *Ms.* The builder was James A. McAllen.