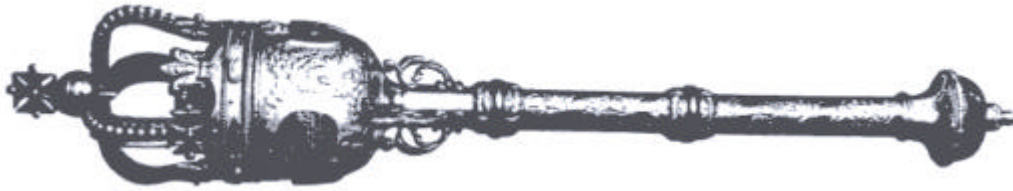


The Old House of Delegates



The old hall of the House of Delegates is located off the Rotunda opposite the portico entrance. It is the largest room in the Capitol, measuring seventy-six feet in width. Typical of Jefferson's use of classical architecture, it resembles an open courtyard. The coved ceiling has rounded corners and the moldings resemble the exterior eaves of a classical building.

Now a museum, the chamber has been the scene of many historic events. As there was no other large building in Richmond and St. John's Church was re-

mote from the westward-growing town, the Capitol was used regularly for church services—Episcopal and Presbyterian churches alternated Sundays.

Above/The Mace of the House of Delegates. Below/Restored in 1929, the old House chamber was the meeting place of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1788 to 1904

The old hall was the meeting place of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1788 to 1904. Here in 1807, Aaron Burr was acquitted of treason in a trial presided over by John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States. The convention which drafted the Virginia constitution of 1830 held part of its sessions here, as did the constitutional conventions of 1850-51, 1867-68, and 1901-02. The Virginia Secession Convention of 1861 met here during part of its first session. It was also a meeting place of the Confederate Congress. The old hall was restored in 1929.

Displayed in the chamber is an Edwardian style mace made of silver with a 24 karat gold wash. Purchased in England, it was presented to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1974 by the Jamestown Foundation.



The old House chamber and some of the statuary on display

The Old Senate

The former Senate chamber, now used for occasional committee meetings, contains paintings rather than statuary. These pictures depict two of the most important events in the history of the Commonwealth and of the nation. One painting, completed in 1949 by Griffith Bailey Coale, represents the establishment of the first permanent English settlement in America. It shows three ships, the *Susan Constant*, the



Above/Coale's painting of the three ships, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery

Godspeed, and the *Discovery*, bringing the first settlers to Virginia in May 1607. Another painting representing the winning of national independence depicts the October 14, 1781, storming of British Redoubt Number 10, a climactic event in the last battle of the Revolutionary War at Yorktown. It was painted about 1840 by the French artist, Louis Eugene Lami. Original woodwork and modern draperies that follow designs by Jefferson decorate this room.