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South Carolina's

STATE HOUSE

Columbia

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JOHN C. CALHOUN
STATUE IN STATE HOUSE LOBBY

A GUIDE FOR VISITORS
S. C. STATE LIBRARY BOARD

Published by the S. C. State Library
Prepared by Emily Bellinger Reynolds, Former State Librarian
and Joan Reynolds Faunt, State Librarian

1966

SOUTH CAROLINA'S STATE HOUSE

South Carolina's handsome State House, constructed of native granite in Roman Corinthian style, antedates the Confederate War. The building was begun in 1855 and the cornerstone laid June 9, 1856.

The former State House was first occupied in December, 1789, when the capital was removed to Columbia from Charleston, the seat of provincial and state government since 1670. Its architect was James Hoban, a young Irishman who later designed the executive mansion in Washington.

Through the years, the State House suffered the natural deterioration of any well-used frame building. In 1849, Governor Whitmarsh Benjamin Seabrook recommended the construction of a fire-proof building for housing public documents, to be a part of the new State House. The cornerstone was laid December 15, 1851. In 1854, however, the Commissioners of the New State House discovered serious defects in both brick and stone work and ordered construction halted.

Governor John Laurence Manning recommended that the new edifice be located "... at the intersection of Senate and Richardson street with northern and southern exposures [so that] it can be seen without obstruction from the four points of the compass and will present an appearance more dignified and imposing." The old State House was rolled back to make room for the new. John R. Niernsee of Baltimore, a native of Vienna, Austria, was appointed architect.

By the fall of 1860, it was reported that the walls should be finished and ready for roofing early the next year. With the onset of the Confederate War, however, work came to a virtual standstill. Decision was made to continue the work of quarrying granite blocks, since otherwise the quarry machinery and railroad built for hauling the blocks might deteriorate, and to complete the marble work, under contract to a private firm.

On February 16, 1865, General William T. Sherman's army was encamped across the Congaree River, and his artillery played on Columbia all day. Six hits were registered on the western and southern walls of the new State House, and four shots struck the interior. Only one did much damage; it shattered the molded window-sill and balusters of the second window from the north side of the House of Representatives. (The outside scars were marked with bronze stars in 1937.)

After the surrender of Columbia on February 17, the city was almost totally destroyed by fire. Among the buildings burned was the old State House.

The quoin-stones and basement cornices at the southwestern corner of the new building crumbled off three or four inches from the heat of the burning old building, according to Niernsee's report to the legislature in 1865. The architect's plans, drawings, specifications, and all other records "were utterly swept away during that terrible night."

After the post-war reorganization of the state government, the General Assembly, which had been meeting on the campus of the South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina), again turned its attention to completing the State House. Governor James Lawrence Orr was directed to advertise for estimates for roofing the building and fitting up rooms for the use of the General Assembly and its officers. Congressional Reconstruction, with military rule in 1867-1868 and governmental reorganization under the radicals in 1868, intervened and it was not until 1869 that a roof was placed over the State House. The General Assembly met in the building for the first time on November 23, 1869. Here all succeeding meetings have been held.

Even as early as 1855 plans for the State House included central heating. There were, however, fireplaces, which were used in the committee rooms until recent years. Gas chandeliers provided light. Contemporary descriptions of the Mackey-Wallace struggle in 1876 tell that the only illumination in the House chamber was from candles, for the Republicans had failed to pay the gas bills. But the Democrats guaranteed payment and had the gas turned on again.

The radicals, in power from 1868 to 1876, declared that a part of the vast amounts of bonds issued was to finance work on the State House. There was, however, so much dishonesty in their transactions that it is impossible to show how much was actually spent in making the building habitable. The records show great extravagance in furnishing the Senate and House halls and other rooms, but much fundamental construction remained unfinished.

The state's precarious economic condition prevented the continuation of work on the State House for more than 20 years. In 1885, John R. Niernsee was re-engaged as architect, but died on June 7 of that year. He was succeeded by his former assistant, J. Crawford Neilson of Baltimore, who was succeeded on October 1, 1888, by Frank McHenry Niernsee, son of John R. Niernsee.

The last architect deviated from the plans of his father. The original design provided for a lofty and finely proportioned tower rising through the center of the building and supported on piers and arches

from the ground up, a "rectangular lantern" somewhat pyramidal in outline, 30 feet square at the base and rising to 180 feet above the ground. An architect's rendering of the planned front view hangs in the State Library.

In 1899, the north and south porticos and dome were erected, and the copper roof put on in the 1880's was replaced by a gravel roof. Through the years necessary repairs have been made to the State House. In the summer of 1960 the building was air-conditioned and the heating system modernized. The rotunda entrances to the Senate and House lobbies were replaced with majestic walnut doors in 1961.

During the winter of 1962-1963, the main lobby was redecorated, and the statue of John C. Calhoun removed from its wall niche and placed in the center of the rotunda. Features of the decor are real palmetto trees, taken from Hunting Island and preserved. Artificial ferns are also used. The original molded plaster cornice and the inside of the dome have been touched with red, black and gold to contrast with the white of the walls. Covering the original marble tile floor is red wall-to-wall carpeting, with a gold American eagle design, based on the eagle on the twenty-cent piece.

Modern yellow leather sofas, black chairs, and black end tables provide colorful and comfortable seating arrangements. The wrought iron railing around the stair-wells has also been redecorated, its design gilded and the wooden rail refinished. Telephone booths of walnut were built under the staircases leading to the balcony which overlooks the lobby on all four sides.

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS IN THE MAIN LOBBY

In center: John Caldwell Calhoun (1782-1850), life-size statue, his hand resting on book marked "The Constitution of the United States." (The original plaster cast of the sculptor, Frederick W. Ruckstull, which was sent to Italy to be copied in marble, has been bronzed. The marble statue is in National Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C.)

On walls, beginning at right of front door: James Henry Hammond (1807-1864), Governor, 1842-1844; U. S. Senator, 1857-1860 (loan of his grandson, former State Senator James Henry Hammond of Columbia).

Emily Geiger, said to have made ride in behalf of American patriots, 1781. (Legend based on *The Women of the American Revolution* by Elizabeth F. Ellet [1849].)

Standard Bearers of Gregg's Regiment, 1st S.C.V., at Gaines Mill, Va., June 27, 1862; marble scroll

honoring James Hunt Taylor, Edward Shubrick, George M. Cotchett, and Alfred Gaillard Pinckney.

"Girls of the Sixties," marble plaque with bronze laurel wreath, each leaf bearing the name of a member.

War of 1812, marble plaque honoring South Carolinians.

South Carolina Congressional Medal of Honor winners: On naval duty (1905): Boilermaker Edward Floyd. At Vera Cruz (1914): Surgeon Middleton S. Elliott. On naval duty (1918): Ensign Daniel A. J. Sullivan. In Korea: Pfc. Charles H. Barker, S/Sgt. Robert S. Kennemore, Pfc. Noah O. Knight, and S/Sgt. Lewis G. Watkins.

Mary Amarintha Snowden (1819-1898), marble memorial.

South Carolina Congressional Medal of Honor winners in World War I: First Lt. James C. Dozier, Sgt. Gary Evans Foster, Sgt. Thomas Lee Hall, Sgt. Richmond H. Hilton, Cpl. James D. Heriot, and Cpl. John Cantey Villepigue.

South Carolina Congressional Medal of Honor winners: In World War II: Lt. Col. George L. Mabry, Jr., Sgt. Robert A. Owens, Pfc. Thomas E. Atkins, Pfc. William A. McWhorter, and Pvt. Furman L. Smith. In the Nicaraguan Campaign (1932): Sgt. Donald L. Truesdell.

South Carolina volunteers in yellow fever investigations in Cuba in 1900-1901: T/Sgt. Levi E. Folk, Pvt. James L. Hanberry, and Pvt. Charles G. Sonntag.

Martin Witherspoon Gary (1831-1881), Confederate brigadier general; bronze bas-relief.

Second Lt. John T. Kennedy, winner of Congressional Medal of Honor, Philippine Islands, 1909.

Ordinance of Secession, marble replica, with text and names of all signers.

James Glen (1701-1777), Governor of South Carolina, 1738-1755.

Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870), bronze bust unveiled January 21, 1958.

On landing of west staircase: Declaration of Independence, bronze replica, with bas-reliefs of South Carolina signers: Edward Rutledge (1749-1800), Thomas Heyward, Jr. (1746-1809), Arthur Middleton (1742-1787) and Thomas Lynch, Jr. (1749-1779).

South Carolina patriots in Revolutionary War, bronze plaque.

On landing of east staircase: Constitution of United States, bronze replica, with bas-reliefs of South Carolina signers: John Rutledge (1739-1800), Charles Pinckney (1757-1824), Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1825), and Pierce Butler (1744-1822).

STATE LIBRARY

The South Carolina State Library was established by the General Assembly in 1814 as the Legislative Library for the use of its members. The original act provided that \$500 be appropriated annually for the purchase of books, and that the librarian be elected by the body. Then, as now, the librarian handled distribution of public documents, including exchanges with other states and the Federal government.

The facilities of the Library were soon opened to other South Carolina officials and to the professors at the South Carolina College, but not to the public until a much later date.

When the old State House was burned in 1865, the books in the State Library were destroyed. Collections, built around a nucleus stored beneath the South Carolina College library, were promptly started, and the Library was established in a private residence until the present State House, with its handsome library room, could be put into use.

A provision of the Constitution of 1895 officially permitted the position of State Librarian to be held by a woman, as excepted from the requirement that officers be "persons eligible to vote." In 1898 the Library was reorganized and was opened to the public. It was placed under a Board of Trustees, to be composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Superintendent of Education as ex officio members.

The Library is non-circulating, but many lawyers and others seeking Codes of Laws and other legal documents of all the 50 states and of the United States avail themselves of its services. Researchers in history find much of use. The Library has a fine collection of books on South Carolina, the Confederacy, and general history, and is a Federal depository with United States documents dating to the present time. In 1960, a large portion of the general library of Mr. A. S. Salley, state historian emeritus, was purchased, a valuable addition to the Carolinian collection. Reference works include encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographical encyclopedias, and the like. Of special value are the bound newspapers, some dating back to the Confederate War, with complete files of *The State* (Columbia) and *The News and Courier* (Charleston) from early in this century. The library contains about 275,000 volumes.

The State Librarian has used the South Carolina documents and other materials in her own research, and has placed on record compilations which contribute to the value of the Library collections.

The State Library is on the main floor of the capitol, between the rotunda and the Senate Street portico. It is 81 feet 4 inches long and 46 feet wide. The lofty ceiling, 43 feet in height, is of molded

plaster, a fine example of 19th century art, painted in green, rose, and gold. The room is centered by a handsome chandelier of Venetian glass globes, of suitable proportions. The chandelier, now electric, was originally lighted by gas.

One of the most attractive features is the pair of spiral wrought-iron staircases leading to the balcony nearly 17 feet above the main floor. The balcony, overhanging the room on all four sides and likewise containing bookcases, is supported by iron columns, distinguished yet simple with their acanthus leaf design accented with antique gold. Black grillwork, with mahogany rail, forms the balcony bannister.

The windows and interior doors are set in panels of brown marble within the three-foot thick walls. The triple entrance from the main lobby is adorned with arches filled with stained glass fanlights, and high on the inside wall above the balcony is a large stained glass rose window. These are lighted to show their beauty on the lobby side. The floor is blocked gray and white marble tile, and the outside doorway is panelled in white marble.

Fifteen-foot tall bookcases house the Library's valuable collection. These are panelled and decorated at the top. The architectural detailing of the room is exceptional and considered very beautiful.

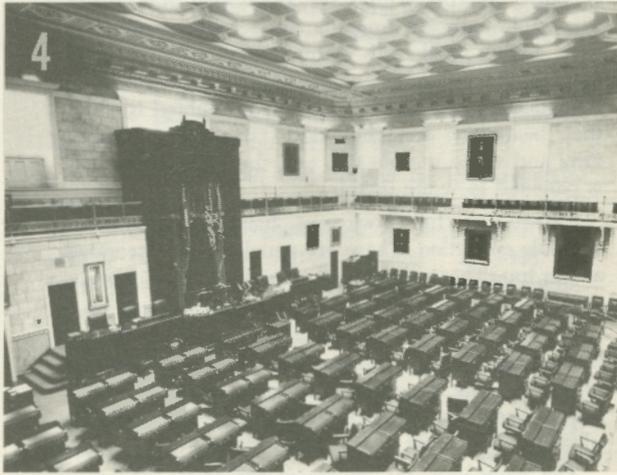
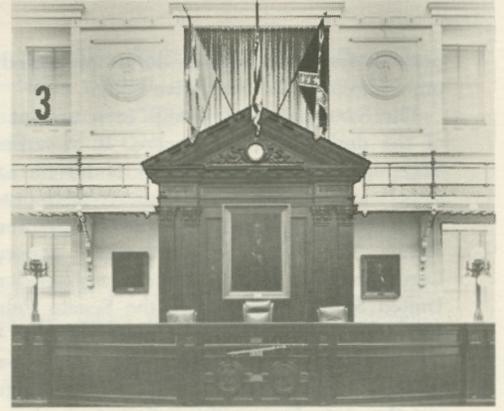
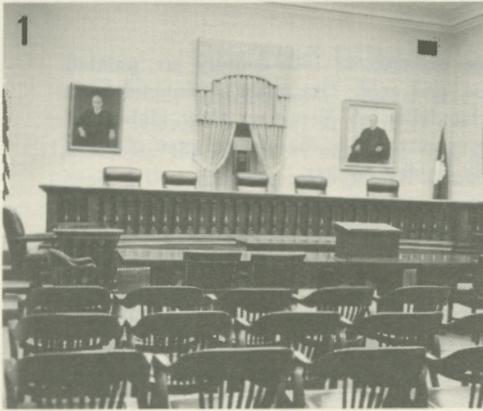
A recent addition is a small showcase, in which interesting South Carolina relics and books are displayed for the benefit of the many visitors. In the library hangs an architect's rendering of the originally planned front view of the State House.

The room is in the charge of the State Librarian, Mrs. Joan Reynolds Faunt, elected in January, 1965. It is also occupied by the Legislative Council, the agency which drafts bills for the General Assembly. Maj. Gen. Lewie G. Merritt, USMC (Ret.), has been director of the Legislative Council since its inception in 1949, and is the State's Code Commissioner.

SENATE CHAMBER

The chamber of the State Senate is located in the east wing of the State House. Entrance is through a small lobby, panelled in walnut and retaining the original marble tile floor. From this opens the Senate chamber.

The room, painted silver fox with molded ceiling accented in gold and rose, contains the individual desks of the 46 Senators. Wall-to-wall carpeting matches the decor. Opposite the entrance is the magnificent carved mahogany desk, raised from the main floor. The desk, installed in 1915, was restored beautifully to its original rich finish in 1965, just fifty years later. Here the Clerk of the Senate, Lovick O. Thomas, incumbent since 1950, and other attaches



1 — Supreme Court Room

2 — Governor Robert E. McNair, standing in front of the carved State Seal in his offices

3 — Senate Chamber

4 — Hall of House of Representatives

5 — South Carolina's State House

6 — The State Library



perform the multitudinous duties connected with the proceedings of the legislative body.

The Sword of State hangs in a case at the front of the desk, when not in use. It is carried by the Sergeant-at-Arms at the head of all formal processions and on other occasions. It rests on a rack in front of the President's chair while the Senate is in session. The handsome sword was a personal gift of Lord Halifax, former British ambassador to the United States, presented to the Senate February 20, 1951. The sword was the work of the Wilkinson Sword Company of London. The upper part of the pointed straight blade is etched with a design containing the state flower, the yellow jessamine, with the state seal on one side. It has a golden curved guard and the handle is wrapped with gold braid. This replaced an 1800 cavalry sabre from the Charleston Museum used temporarily after the original Sword of State was stolen from the Senate rostrum in 1941.

The original sword, made by a Charles Town silversmith, was in use from the beginning of statehood on March 26, 1776, and may have been the same ceremonial sword used throughout the provincial period.

A gallery overhangs the chamber, providing seats for spectators.

Portraits line the walls of the room, many of the subjects having served in the Senate.

Opening off the small lobby are the rooms of the Committees on Judiciary and on Finance, the general committee room, and the Lieutenant Governor's room. In the committee rooms hang portraits of the respective committee members of many years, and in the Lieutenant Governor's room are pictures of all lieutenant governors of South Carolina since 1915 and of a few who served earlier.

The lobby balcony provides space for a conference room, a general committee room, and the room of the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Edgar A. Brown, senator since 1928 and President pro tempore since 1942. Of special interest are lovely watercolors on the walls of this last room, pictures of the Winthrop College administration building; "Fort Hill," home of John C. Calhoun, at Clemson; and the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina, built in 1840 as the first separate college library building in the nation.

In recent years, all the committee rooms have been done over in traditional style, suitable to their 19th century architecture.

PORTRAITS IN SENATE CHAMBER

Main Floor, beginning at right of entrance:

Asbury Churchwell Latimer (1851-1908), U. S. Senator.

John Myers Felder (1782-1851), S. C. Senator; Congressman.

Laurence Massillon Keitt (1824-1864), Congressman; Confederate colonel.

Col. Samuel Warren (1761-1841), captain in Revolution; President of S. C. Senate.

Miss Ann Pamela Cuninghame (1816-1875), preserver of Mount Vernon as a national shrine.

Matthew Calbraith Butler (1836-1909), Confederate major general; U. S. Senator.

Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), member of Continental Congress; signer of Declaration of Independence; S. C. Senator.

Henry Timrod (1828-1867), Poet Laureate of Confederacy.

Edgar Allan Brown (1888-), President pro tempore of S. C. Senate, 1942 to date.

Angus Patterson (1790-1854), President of S. C. Senate.

John Caldwell Calhoun (1782-1850), Vice President of United States; U. S. Senator.

John Doby Kennedy (1840-1896), Confederate brigadier general; lieutenant governor.

Richard Manning Jefferies (1889-1964), President pro tempore of S. C. Senate; Governor.

James Francis Byrnes (1879-), U. S. Senator; U. S. Supreme Court Justice; Governor.

Martin Witherspoon Gary (1831-1881), Confederate brigadier general; S. C. Senator.

Milledge Luke Bonham (1813-1890), Confederate brigadier general; Governor.

William Haselden Ellerbe (1862-1899), Governor.

Pierce Mason Butler (1798-1847), Governor; colonel of Palmetto Regiment, Mexican War.

Seal of State of South Carolina, adopted 1776; designed by William Henry Drayton and Arthur Middleton.

William Lawrence Mauldin (1845-1912), President pro tempore of S. C. Senate; lieutenant governor.

Thomas William Woodward (1833-1902), Confederate major; S. C. Senator.

Gallery: At right of entrance:

Wade Hampton, S. C. Senator; Confederate lieutenant general; Governor; U. S. Senator.

At left of entrance: John Brown Gordon (1832-1904), of Georgia, Confederate lieutenant general; U. S. Senator; Governor of Georgia.

HALL OF THE HOUSE

The huge hall of the House of Representatives occupies the west wing of the main floor. Off the entrance lobby, to the left, is the office of the Speaker of the House, the Honorable Solomon Blatt, House member since 1932 and Speaker 1935-1946 and 1951

to date. In this room are watercolors, by Alfred Richardson Simson, depicting the old Barnwell County Courthouse, the campus of the South Carolina College about 1850, and a typical lowcountry scene.

In the small lobby is the guest book, where all visitors to the State House are asked to register.

The handsome House hall, containing desks for the 124 Representatives, is panelled, with portraits of outstanding public figures decorating the walls. The magnificent carved mahogany desk faces the entrance. From its raised dais, the Speaker of the House presides. Here the Clerk of the House, Miss Inez Watson, and her staff do their work of facilitating smooth legislative procedure and recording all actions taken by the body. Miss Watson, assistant Clerk from 1935 to 1951 (acting Clerk 1942-1944), has been Clerk since November 8, 1951, the first woman to hold such a position in South Carolina.

The hall was renovated and the new ornamental plastered ceiling was placed in 1937. The comfortable chairs used by the Representatives were acquired in 1955, replacing 50-year-old seats. The luxurious green wall-to-wall carpeting was laid in 1962. In this same year, the inadequate incandescent lighting system was modernized by the installation of mercury vapour lights, the first use of such units in a legislative hall in the United States.

Of special interest is the mace, displayed since 1962 in a lighted niche on the wall behind the desk. Prior to that time, it was kept in the Clerk's office when not in official use. The mace, of solid silver with gold burnishing, was made in London in 1756. According to the late Mr. A. S. Salley, state historian, it is the only mace in use which antedates the Revolutionary War. The valuable relic is insured for \$20,000.

It is the custom every day, upon the opening of the session, for the Sergeant-at-Arms to place the mace upon its specially prepared rack on the rostrum in front of the Speaker, there to remain as the emblem of authority until recess or adjournment of the House. It is also borne at the head of formal processions.

In the Hall of the House are two large handsome books, bound in scarlet leather, containing pictures of members of the Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees from an early date.

The rooms of the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Judiciary are off the main lobby of the State House, one on each side of the front door. The House hearing room is on the ground floor, a part of the suite of offices occupied until 1959 by the Governor. Another committee room is off the balcony over the main lobby.

The hall of the House of Representatives was in 1876 the scene of the historic struggle between the Wallace House (Democratic) and the Mackey House (Radical). The conservative faction in the state was for the first time able to overcome the hold of the radicals, who had been in power since the Reconstruction Constitutional Convention of 1868, following a period of military government. Two sets of representatives each claimed the election in 1876. The question was put to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the Democrats.

PORTRAITS IN HALL OF HOUSE

Main Floor, beginning at right of entrance:

Francis Marion (1732-1795), Revolutionary brigadier general; S. C. Senator.

William Henry Wallace (1827-1901), Confederate brigadier general; speaker of S. C. House of Representatives; circuit judge.

Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), President of United States; native of South Carolina.

Benjamin Ryan Tillman (1847-1918), Governor; U. S. Senator.

Solomon Blatt (1896-), Speaker of House of Representatives, 1937-1946, 1951 to date.

Thomas Jonathan ("Stonewall") Jackson (1824-1863) of Virginia, Confederate lieutenant general.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), President of United States.

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), President of United States; resident of Columbia, 1870-1874.

Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) of Virginia, Confederate general.

Bernard Mannes Baruch (1870-1965), native of South Carolina; advisor of Presidents.

John Rutledge (1739-1800), President of South Carolina; Governor of South Carolina; U. S. Supreme Court Justice; Chief Justice of South Carolina; Chief Justice of U. S. Supreme Court.

Joseph Brevard Kershaw (1822-1894), S. C. House member; Confederate major general; S. C. Senator; circuit judge.

David Edward Finley (1861-1917), bronze bust; S. C. House member; S. C. Senator; Congressman.

Micah Jenkins (1836-1864), Confederate brigadier general.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), President of United States.

In gallery, beginning at right of entrance:

John Laurens, Jr. (1754-1782), Revolutionary colonel, aide to General Washington; Congressional envoy to France.

Thomas Sumter (1734-1832), Revolutionary brigadier general; S. C. House member; S. C. Senator; Congressman; U. S. Senator.

William Moultrie (1730-1805), Revolutionary major general; S. C. Senator; lieutenant governor; Governor.

Johnson Hagood (1829-1898), Confederate brigadier general; Governor.

George Washington (1732-1799), Commander-in-Chief of Continental Army; President of United States.

James Conner (1829-1883), Confederate brigadier general; attorney general.

Andrew Pickens (1739-1817), Revolutionary brigadier general; S. C. House member; S. C. Senator; Congressman.

Jacob John Faust (1772-1827), S. C. House member; first printer of S. C. Acts in Columbia.

John Smith Preston (1809-1881), Confederate brigadier general; S. C. House member; S. C. Senator.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court Room is located in the east wing of the first floor of the State House. It is impressive, with the high ceilings common to all original chambers of the century-old edifice. Handsome furniture, enhanced by wall-to-wall carpeting, includes the massive bench handmade from South Carolina heart pine for the original court room in the State House. Oil portraits of former Chief Justices adorn the walls.

The Honorable Claude A. Taylor is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Associate Justices are the Honorable Joseph R. Moss, the Honorable J. Woodrow Lewis, the Honorable Thomas P. Bussey, and the Honorable James M. Brailsford, Jr.

Adjacent to the court room is the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Miss Frances H. Smith, incumbent since March 31, 1959, is the first woman to hold this position. In her custody is the valuable book containing signatures of all lawyers admitted to practice before the Supreme Court since the earliest days of South Carolina.

Across the hall is the Supreme Court Library, primarily for the use of the Justices but open to the public for reference. Here are located court reports, law journals, and many other legal works of South Carolina and other states. Mrs. T. C. Brown is librarian. Next door to the library is the consultation room.

PORTRAITS

In Supreme Court Room

ALL CHIEF JUSTICES

David Gordon Baker (1884-1958)

Taylor Hudnall Stukes (1893-1961)

Benjamin Faneuil Dunkin (1792-1874)

Ira Boyd Jones (1851-1927)

Eugene Satterwhite Blease (1877-1963)

Milledge Lipscomb Bonham (1854-1943)

Eugene Blackburn Gary (1854-1926)

John Gates Stabler (1871-1940)

Henry McIver (1826-1903)

Young John Pope (1841-1911)

John Belton O'Neill (1793-1863)

William Dunlap Simpson (1823-1890)

Richard Cannon Watts (1853-1930)

In Conference Room

Circuit Judge Ernest Gary (1859-1914)

Circuit Judge Frank Boyd Gary (1860-1922)

Associate Justice Samuel McGowan (1819-1897)

Circuit Judge Robert Munro (1796-1889)

In Consultation Room

Chancellor Waddy Thompson (1769-1845)

Chancellor George Washington Dargan (1802-1859)

Chancellor Job Johnstone (1793-1862)

Chancellor William Harper (1790-1847)

Circuit Judge Alfred Proctor Aldrich (1814-1897)

Associate Justice George Williams Gage (1856-1921)

Associate Justice Daniel Edward Hydrick (1860-1921)

Associate Justice Thomas Perrin Cothran (1857-1934)

In Supreme Court Library

Circuit Judge James Sproull Cothran (1830-1897)

Attorney General James Louis Petigru (1789-1863)

USC Law School Dean Joseph Daniel Pope (1820-1908)

GROUND FLOOR

In the east corridor is a memorial to "Ratification Day," May 23, 1938, the 150th anniversary of South Carolina's ratification of the Constitution of the United States. In addition to a bronze wall plaque and a memorial cache, there are parchment facsimiles of the Constitution and of the Declaration of Independence.

Also on the ground floor of the State House are the offices of the Secretary of State, the Honorable O. Frank Thornton, incumbent since 1950. It is required by law that the office of the Secretary of State be located in the State House.

In the west wing there is a large conference room, now used by the House of Representatives but until 1959 a part of the Governor's suite of offices. The Governor's offices are at present in the Wade Hampton office building (corner of Senate and Main Streets, directly behind the State House). Governor Robert E. McNair, however, has expressed the intention of

moving the executive offices back into the State House since the new Rutledge State Office Building has been completed and a number of state agencies have been relocated.

The ground floor corridor, east-west in direction with a tall arched ceiling, leads into the center section, also arched and supported by massive columns. Here is located an exhibit of Clemson University featuring South Carolina agriculture. From the center part, two staircases with wrought iron bannisters lead up to the main lobby. The exterior of the staircases is panelled in wrought iron with gilded decorations, the inside wall in brown marble and wrought iron.

The cross-corridor under the front portico (entered from either side of the grand front steps) was decorated in 1962. The floor is in large black and white terrazzo squares, and the passageway is lit with antique hanging lanterns.

The center of attention is a two-ton replica of the Great Seal of the United States, painted in full color, which was the figurehead from the bow of the U.S.S. South Carolina, launched July 11, 1908. The Seal was worn by the battleship only a short time, being removed in accordance with new orders concerning naval vessels. It was transferred to the State of South Carolina by Secretary of the Navy George von L. Meyer in 1909. The United States, South Carolina, and Confederate States flags are mounted above the Seal.

The Confederate Museum, formerly in the State House, is now located in the South Carolina Archives Department at 1430 Senate Street.

The authors are indebted to "The State Houses of South Carolina, 1751-1936," by A. S. Salley, Secretary, Historical Commission of South Carolina (1936); "The State House," by J. Wilson Gibbes, Clerk, House of Representatives, included annually in the S. C. Legislative Manual since 1929; State documents; Hampton and His Red Shirts, by Alfred B. Williams (1935); to the Clerks of the S. C. Senate, of the S. C. House of Representatives, and of the S. C. Supreme Court; and to the office of the Governor.

Photos by Kent Studios, Alt-Lee and Terry L. Rowe

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STATE DOCUMENTS**