

discovered that water seepage has damaged the cypress wood from which it was made. The new acorn will be constructed of 31 pieces of cypress made by craftspeople from around the state. It will then be clad in copper and gilded on the top, like the original. The lightning rod, also original, will remain in tact and will continue to serve as it has for 208 years, although metal sheathing will be placed around it inside the new acorn to strengthen it. The original 18th century acorn will be placed on public display in the context of an exhibit on the history of the State House.

The restoration work on the dome and the acorn is being performed under the auspices of the State House Trust, chaired by Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. The work is being supervised by the Department of General Services and the Maryland Historical Trust of the Department of Housing and Community Development, with assistance from the Maryland State Archives. Experts consulting on the project include: Orlando Ridout of the Maryland Historical Trust; Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Maryland State Archivist; Willie Graham of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Bill Adair of Gold Leaf Studios; and Eugene Lynch, Secretary of the Department of General Services. □