

refusing to make any contracts until all the competition drawings were in. 19

In defense of Clark's boldness it should be pointed out that he was probably known at least by reputation to Washington, Jefferson, and the commissioners, all of whom had visited Annapolis while Clark was working there. As Fiske Kimball explained it, "In Clark's eyes, apparently, the object of a competition was to obtain from amateurs and others a variety of eligible ideas, which might then be digested and embodied in working drawings by an official supervising architect."²⁰ Yet if Clark did relent and submit drawings to the competition neither they nor correspondence mentioning them has survived.

Although Clark did not design the Capitol, he did lead the Masonic ceremonies when its cornerstone was laid on September 18, 1793.²¹ As master of Annapolis Lodge Number 12 he had been asked to be present by members of the newly founded Washington Lodge Number 15 which had been hastily organized by the construction industry in the capital.²²

As Clark indicated in his letter of April 11 to the commissioners of public buildings, he had contracted to work on St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis. The first church had been torn down in 1775, and the second was built between 1786 and 1788 (and burned to the ground in 1858). Clark is credited with designing the church's steeple in 1792, and indeed his daughter Mary S. Magee stated in 1829 that he had designed the whole church (color plate).²³

Because of his architectural commissions in Annapolis Clark was selected by William Paca (1740~1799), the wealthy former governor of Maryland and signer of the Declaration of Independence, to build a house for his son John on Wye Island in Queen Annes County. Wye Hall burned in 1879, but Clark's front elevation and floor plan survive (Fig. 3). The balanced Palladian composition could have been inspired by the English pattern books that Clark may have sold in his bookstore.²⁴ It is said that the windows in the vast drawing room alone cost Paca \$1,000 each ²⁵ and that the total cost of the house was \$20,000 ²⁶

From January 10, 1794, until June 1794, **Clark** advertised in the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser* that he would publish for subscribers of \$5 a two-volume *Polymathy: Or the American Builder*:

This work will contain **various** Opinions of the best writers on Architecture, Arts, and Science; together with **experiments**, and accurate notes of Observation, by the **author**; being the result of thirty years study and experience in his profession . It will also contain an alphabetical account of the quality and value of the various kinds of materials, and numerous species of labour, expended on buildings. Exemplifications, to ascertain the quantities of materials and labour necessary to complete, almost, every part in a building, of whatever dimensions. An account and explanation of all the terms and phrases, used in ancient and modern architecture and building. To persons inclined to build, it will afford an opportunity of regulating their plans within the compass of their finances, and prepare them to prevent impositions from tricking venders of materials, and extortionate work-men.... It will contain many curious and valuable receipts, to make fine and coarse varnishes . . . to make compositions for elegant, large, or minute ornaments - . . Tables to ascertain the dimensions of the various apertures introduced in different edifices, as doors, windows, chimnies, skylights, stair-cases, &c in proportion to their different uses and intentions, whether *for* beauty or utility - . . Descriptions and proportions of the general and particular members of various orders in architecture; viz. the Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Composite, Chinese. Attic. - . .

Had Clark completed this ambitious project it would not only have been the first American pattern book but also a vastly more comprehensive one than those that were later published.

^ On January 2, 1795, Clark advertised in the *Maryland Journal, and Baltimore Universal Daily*