

chancellor of the state of Maryland. He petitioned George Washington in August 1790 to consider Clark for employment as architect surveyor or master builder," adding:

Mr. Clark, as I have been informed, was regularly bred to his profession in England; but on that circumstance I lay very little [illegible]; as I consider (illegible) public works which in this city he has planned, superintended, and conducted to be monuments of superior taste, judgement, and skill.~From those works; from his drawings, which I have seen; from his activity & attention to business, which I have frequently remarked on, from the manner, in which he executes his authority; from the attachment and obedience of his Workmen; in short, from everything, which I have either seen or heard, I do not [illegible] to declare, that I believe no man on the continent better qualified than Mr. Clark to act in that line, in which he is ambitious of serving the United States.¹⁵

Receiving no reply, Hanson wrote again in November urging Clark's case.¹⁶

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In an advertisement dated March 14, 1792, which appeared in a number of newspapers, Washington, Jefferson, and the commissioners of public buildings (Thomas Johnson, David Stewart, and Daniel Carroll) announced a competition for the design of the Capitol. Clark hurried to **Washington**, and on April 8 wrote the commissioners from his lodgings in George Town promising a full set of drawings for the Capitol by the July 15 deadline. He hinted broadly that the commissioners would save money by hiring him instead of paying the advertised premium of \$500 to the winner of the competition. In his letter he said that he felt the twelve hundred feet allotted for the Senate chamber was not nearly enough, and instead of twelve small rooms he suggested four large ones:

.. there will be a great difficulty to arrange such small compartments in a Structure of the magnitude the Capital must be of in order to arrange the large Compartments, without erecting the partissions of the small ones on false bearings and introducing mezzanine Stores: The first is repugnant to all principles of permanent Building, and the second is generally a cause of destroying the symetry of Elevations.¹⁷ -

For an unspecified annual salary he proposed to work from 9:00 A.M. until 9:00 P.M. as the architect of all proposed Federal buildings, not just the Capitol.

Three days later he wrote the commissioners again, complaining of the burdensome expense imposed by his large family and emphasizing that although he had prior commitments in Annapolis he would gladly give them up for the post in Washington:

... the day preceding my departure from Annapolis The Governor and Council appointed me, with a commission of ten p Ct on £2750, to design, particulate, and supervise the Contractors for repairing the public Buildings; ... The Trustees of the Church in Annapolis, have got a new subscription of £1000, and they have appointed me with a Commission of ten per Cent on it to render the same services. Mr. James Carroll has applied and solicited me to render him the like Services on an House he is going to erect, which I estimate will cost him £1000; These appointments require my personal Labour, and the Gentlemen seeing my relaxation and hearing the cause may supersede the appointments.¹⁸

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That same day the commissioners replied, regretting any inconvenience or expense on Clark's part but