reached such heights that a showdown was arranged in the dome-like Pantheon. The Patheon. Experiments confirmed lightnings preference for sharp points. The lightning tended glided quietly over the lancet while falling heavily with explosion from the round rod (42). According to Anderson it was more than 25 years before scientists were able to examine the issue impassionately. In 1772, Benjamin Franklin issued a report with Cavendish and Watosn concerning the importance of an underground connection to the efficacy of the conductor. According to the report, which is said to be written mostly by Franklin, it is the essential fucntion of the whole apparatus that the dispersing of the electric force be accomplished by the subterranean portion.

"We advise that at each end of each magazine a well should be dug, in or through chalk, so deep as to have in it at least four feet of standing water. From the bottom of this water should rise a piece of leaden pipe to or near the surface of the ground where it should be joined to the end of an upright bar" (199).

Franklin's construction and understanding of lightning rods is vital to any modern understanding of teh architectural significance of the State house in Maryland. According to Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin's treatises were required reading in any library (see Rocky concerning Gentleman's Library Colonial Williamsburg). Jospeh Clarke's brother Stephen was dealer of books and in 1793 Joseph Clarke submitted a petition to the maryland Gazette (1793/02/23) concerning the establishment of a circulating library. It was likely that he was familiar with this treatise on electricity. According to Radoff (31), Joseph Clarke was originally from England. Furthermore, Charles Wilson Peale states in his diary that on the morning og July 14th 1788, he went with his brother to his Excellency Doctor Franklin's with the intention of inquiring his opinion about the effecacy of rods on the Stadt House. This stresses the importance of the State House as a landmark of scientific engineering and history(1).

III) How Does Anderson Know What He Knows?(Sources Cited)

A listing of sources pertaining to Franklin concerning lightning conductors can be obtained from Anderson's bibliography.

Cavendish, Watson, and Franklin. A Report of the Comittee appointed to consider a method for securing the Powder Magazine at Purfleet from Lightning. Phil. Mag. lxiii 42.

Franklin (Benjamin). Experiments and Observations in Electricity, made at Philadelphia, In America. 8vo. London, 1751.

Franklin, Benjamin. Experiments on the Utility of long pointed Rods for securing buildings from damage by Strokes of Lightning. Polit. Misc. and Phil. Pieces. 487. London.

Franklin, Benjamin. Experiments and Observations on Electricity. 4to. London.

Franklin (Benjamin). Complete Works in Philosophy, Politics, and Morals. 3vols.8vo. London, 1806.

Franklin (William Temple). Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin. 4to. London, 1818.

(1) State provisions for the lightning rod were first made in 1773 under the act to place a copper roof on the State House.

"And to guard the said Stadt House as far as may be against lightning be it further enacted that the said undertaker shall fix place and secure in the ebst manner an Iron Rod pointed with Silver or Gold of six feet at least above the height of the Cupola of the Said Buidling and conducted at least six in the Ground"

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