until December of that year, when both houses of the Legislature finally agreed that the covering should be of copper and appropriated for that purposes an additional £1,440.[5] Wallace ordered the copper immediately from England.[6] The shipment arrived posthaste from abroad; the building was covered during the summer of 1774, and he was even able to finish four rooms of the upper story soon thereafter.

Again, according to Wallace, the copper roofing was all in place during the summer of 1774, and four of the upper rooms were finished by the same time, but there was a hurricane in Annapolis on September 2, 1775, which blew down the Market House and did other damage, including ripping off all the copper roofing of the State House with the exception of a small quantity on the outer "cupola." There was little opportunity to replace the copper after that time. Shipping was already disrupted by the political situation in the Colonies, and if it were not, the copper could not be had from England before late in the spring of 1776, leaving the building open to the elements during the winter of 1775-1776. Rather than see his work spoiled, Wallace relying on his own judgment, hired every hand he could get at heavy expense to himself, framed a new roof with considerable more pitch and covered it with cypress shingles in the course of the autumn and winter. The design of Anderson called for a roof "too flat for shingling" which was the reason for the copper roofing in the first place.[7]

Mrs. Beirne knew of the English origin of the copper: "It is known that the copper roofing was bought in England by Wallace's business partner."[8]

Wallace tells us that it was late in the winter of 1775 before the new roof frame was up and shingled. Meanwhile, the upper rooms were open to the weather and thereby suffered major damage.

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