

The General Assembly of February 1777 appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Hall, Ridgely and Ewing, to examine the state house and to determine whether Mr. Wallace had complied with his contract.⁹

When the committee reported some weeks later, they suggested that galleries be erected in the Chamber of the House of Delegates as well as in the Senate Chamber. Mr. Wallace was mentioned as the author of this proposal.

Thereupon the House of Delegates resolved that Mr. Wallace should erect these galleries and allowed him 500 pounds current money in addition to his original contract. The senate agreed on the same day.¹⁰

Wallace accepted the assignment. His undated letter of acceptance is among the Miscellaneous Executive Papers of the Hall of Records. It reads as follows:

"Gentlemen

I can erect a Gallery & Stair Case in each House of Assembly, agreeable to the Plan herewith sent for five Hundred Pounds, or if it should be more agreeable to the Assembly. I Will have them built & bring in the Carpenters Bills, charging nothing for my Trouble. I am

Gentlemen

Your most Hble Serv^t.

Cha. Wallace

Memo:-Banisters to be continued all along the front "

Unfortunately, Wallace's troubles were not over, for in August of the same year, 1777

" ... when the British Fleet appeared in our Bay all my workmen left me and fled from the City to the interior parts of the State, where they got engaged in Business, and though I made every exertion in my Power, I could not thereafter draw together one fourth part of the sufficient Number of Workmen, this Event greatly retarded the Work, and occasioned my being under the necessity of paying very high Wages in 1779, for work which could; and would have been executed in 1777 for moderate terms."