

Answer

"This defendant admits that he individually entered into a Contract to build the State House in the City of Annapolis, and one great motive was to benefit the Concern which he did to a very great degree, for he was thereby enabled and did lend to the Company great Sums of money for which they were to pay but three per cent interest during the Partnership.

"This defendant says it is false and untrue that any contract was entered into as Stated in the bill, that the Workmen on the State house Should be paid by goods out of the Store, relying on the Credit and property of this Defendant for reimbursement. This Defendant states the transaction Simply and truly to be this

"This Defendant was advanced money to build the State House, that he loaned large Sums to the Company at Three per Cent, which was the first benefit to the Company; and the Second, was this, that the Company might pay Goods to the Workmen or persons finding labour and materials and this Defendant would deduct them from the Accounts of such Workmen and persons, so far as anything was due to them for their work and labour; but this defendant never did contract or agree that he was to pay these peoples Store Accounts, if the Store Account exceeded what was due for labour or materials, nor did the Idea of such guarantee ever enter any man's head, but that of the Complainant." 15

Meanwhile there is ~~no~~ evidence that the State House was in use during ~~any part of~~ this session, which ended December 31, 1779, and it is probable, *that it was used continually until its destruction by the meeting of the Continental Congress, 1783-1784.* therefore, that its first use was for the next session which convened March 23, 1780. This date is somewhat later than the traditional one, but in the light of the evidence here given, no earlier date seems possible.

There is substantiation for this date in the proceedings of the Lower House, which in November 1788, refused to pay a claim of the aldermen of Annapolis for the use of the Assembly Room by the State Government from 1775 to 1780 in the amount of £215:1:3 only because the price was too high. 17.

Wallace's petition was accepted by the Legislature in 1779. Work, thereupon, came to a halt for several years. The various workers employed on the building are unknown. Wallace was the undertaker, Anderson the Architect and Thomas . Price was what would now be called the Clerk of the Works.