

Apparently the decision had been made, as suggested by Wallace, to raise the pitch of the roof so that there would be a much steeper slope to aid the runoff of water. The Italianate almost flat roof with metal cover, was abandoned in Maryland after this one unfortunate experiment. It will be recalled that Wallace, in the winter of 1775-1776, had built a new frame for the roof and covered it with            cypress shingles. What Clark did was to increase the slope and to cover it with wooden shingles once more. We have this confirmed by the experience of one Thomas Canfield, whose pitiable petition to the Legislature here follows:

"WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly by the petition of Thomas Canfield, that he entered into the service of the United States by enlisting as a private soldier in the fourth Maryland regiment, then commanded by colonel Steward, in the year 1781, and continued to serve in the Maryland line for more than two years, and until the end of the war; that he was employed as a labourer to the workmen on the stadt-house; that early in the morning of the 12th November last, he ascended the scaffold of the stadt-house to the roof thereof with a load of shingles, when his foot unfortunately slipped, from the fright of which, and not having it in his power, to lay hold of any thing for his safety, he fell from the roof of the stadt-house to the ground, at least eighty feet, whereby he was so much bruised, and received so many contusions, that he was carried home senseless, where he continued several weeks not expected to live; that he is in a languishing condition and totally deprived of earning any kind of support for himself, his wife and two helpless children, who are dependent on him for their bread from his daily labour; RESOLVED, That the justices of Anne-Arundel county orphans court are hereby authorised and empowered to make the same allowance to Thomas Canfield as maimed and disabled soldiers are allowed, while he continues unable to support himself by labour; ... " (9)

From the accounts remaining in the archives of the state, we are able to piece together the work which was done, and the suppliers, during Clark's supervising period.