

Construction,

III. Second Phase, ~~Joseph Clark "Undertaker"~~ 1785-1789

Jenifer gave the new contract to Joseph Clark, an architect and builder of Annapolis, the precise terms of which are unknown to us.¹ Shortly thereafter, the following advertisement was inserted in the Maryland Gazette:

"Intendant's-office, February 24, 1785

To be contracted for,

"The carpenters work of a new roof and Cover to the Governor's house, and also for the necessary repairs to be made to the dome and roof of the Stadt-house, both to be erected under the direction of Mr. Joseph Clark, architect; the designs with the necessary particulars, may be seen with the said Clark, or the intendant from the 25th of March next to the 25th of April following, on which day proposals will be received by

DAN. of St. THO. JENIFER, Intendant"²

Clark immediately inserted an advertisement in the Gazette for "Thirty Journeymen carpenters."³ The author of the A Memorial to John Appleton Wilson Maryland State House says that Clark advertised for thirty carpenters to erect a cupola [italics mine]. This misunderstanding has led to much of the controversy about the date of the dome and that of the new roof.

One of the carpenters so employed, has left a letter describing the work:

"Annapolis, June the 3rd, 1785

"Dear Sir

"Imbrace the Oportunity of Writing these few Lines to let you [know] that I and My Father has Gone Down to Anapolis to Work for with Being Very Scarce in Baltimore and Indeed for what You Do there You Cant Get Your Money; We set into Work at the Governor House on Thursday the 19th of May and We Git one Dollar a Day each of us & Gits our Money Every Saturday Night And we Get Boarding at Two Dolars a Week the work We are a Doing is to Put on a New Roof on the Governors house and we are a Going to take the Roof of the State House and it is a Going to Raise it one story higher and the Doom is to Be Sixty foot higer then the old one.