

Construction,

IV. Third Phase,

1787 - 1792

official

Without an "undertaker" the work on the State House proceeded in desultory fashion for the next few years. Clark received no more payments from the State as contractor. While the General Assembly was now impatient with his progress, it must be admitted that there were many factors working against him. Heavy beams were difficult to get as has already been pointed out; there was also the accident to Canfield, already mentioned, also there was the period 1783-1784 when the Continental Congress took over for its uses the State House which had been in constant use since 1780 by the State, county and City of Annapolis. Moreover, there was the usual destruction from young people; the Council on March 8, 1787 wrote to the Reverend Mr. Higginbotham, Rector of St. Anne's, principal of the St. John's College and chaplain of the General Assembly, remonstrating that "boys from your school play ball daily in the State House and on the grounds of the State House, [and] they are responsible for broken windows and other damages."¹ In addition, there was a small fire in the cellar which was happily extinguished before much damage to the building, but which caused delay and repair plus strain on Clark's nerves.²

On July 11, 1786 the Auditor General paid the passage of "sundry carpenters from Ireland to work on the State House."³ Assuming that they stayed on the job, it may be presumed that they helped in the construction of the interior of the Dome and the staircase leading to the "lanthorn." In any case, the contract with McNantz and Brown for this work appears to be more exacting than previous contracts of this kind.

"Monday 31st May 1790

"The Council agree to the terms proposed to them this Day by Charles McNantz and Andrew Brown for erecting a Stair case in the Stadt house & to find them such Nails as may be necessary for the same - which terms as follow

"The Subscribers Charles McNantz & Andrew Brown will undertake to compleat with labour and materials a neat flight of