

Stairs with Sqr. Banister turned newel Architrave Strong board moalded hand rail leading from the Armoury to the Ark of the Dome, and from thence up to the Terret above the Dome one substantial rough flight of Stairs of such demensiens as shall be directed by the Governor and Council or any other person they shall appoint for that purpose, for the Sum of Eighty Dollars, the Governor and Council allowing the Subscribers to use as many of the materials as they will want for the purpose that are now in the upper part of the State House

C M & A B⁴

The two contractors were paid for this work on July 19, 1790,⁵ which would normally mean that the work was done and had been accepted by the State. This was an unheard of speed for this period, and especially for government work.

The Council took some measures to prevent damage to the dome and also to prevent visitors from accidentally setting it on fire. There had already been several fires in the State House and the Governor's House, and it was realized how difficult it would be to extinguish a fire in the interior of the dome with bucket brigades. The Council, therefore, took the following action on July 26, 1790:

"Mr. Jubb Fowler is hereby authorized and directed to keep in his possession the Key of the Stairs leading to the Gallery of the Dome, and to suffer no person to mount them without being attended by himself or some person on whom he can depend to prevent damage to the Stairs & Gallery."⁶

One other major improvement is noted for the period: On December 7, 1789, John Shaw was paid "£40 for finishing the privy house."⁷ The General Assembly had been complaining about the condition of this public convenience on the State House Hill at the least since 1785. It was an octagonal structure depicted in the Columbian Magazine and apparently it had not been completed in the interior for the full convenience of the state officers and the general public; its use was limited to a "pissduit."⁸ It seems that Shaw built the remaining facilities and painted the building. The ubiquitous Jubb Fowler was entrusted with its care and maintenance for the future.⁹