

Anderson. It could, of course, be Irish for the Irish have their own ideas about heraldry, or Anderson could have adopted the American fallacy of using a seal inherited from some maternal ancestor.

Having been thoroughly unsuccessful in providing a background for Joseph Horatio Anderson, the investigator turns quite naturally to the man's own statements, the most important of which is that he designed and supervised the Maryland State House. For years attempts have been made to discover the architect of this building. Dr. Morris L. Radoff, the State Archivist, as recently as 1954 made a careful search of records and came to the conclusion in his book, *Buildings of the State of Maryland at Annapolis*, that Charles Wallace, the undertaker, had gone ahead on his own and built it with the help of various subcontractors. The Treasurer of the Western Shore made all payments direct to Wallace as Superintendent. Since this book was published there has turned up in the State Archives the "Humble Petition of Charles Wallace to the General Assembly, December 20, 1779." which reads,

Soon after the passing the Act of Assembly in 1769 for building a State House, the Superintendants—gave repeated public invitations to Architects and Workmen to lay before them Plans Estimates and Proposals for building and finishing the said house but nothing conclusive or satisfactory was done or offered by any person nor was likely to be proposed—the common opinion being that the £7,000 granted was hardly sufficient for the purpose and your petitioner—tho fully satisfied that no great profit could be made by any undertaker proposed to the then acting Superintendants to undertake the Building and finish the said State House for the said £7,000 Sterling which proposals were agreed to.

He concludes that after "seven years application and fatigue on a public work," he is well out of pocket and hopes for redress.⁴

It is known that the copper roofing was bought in England by Wallace's business partner; that Joseph Clarke later added the present dome and that William Buckland was paid for work "on the Public Building" in its early stages. The last named is considered to have designed the interior woodwork which a reluctant Assembly thought "more elegant than was necessary" in view of their budget. There are in existence floor plans and front

⁴ Hall of Records, Annapolis; also *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XLI (1951), 214.

elevation for the State House, undated and unsigned.⁵ These differ considerably from the plans that were used: the dome is smaller, the portico has two columns instead of four with curving steps at each side, the windows are set in arches, there are quoins of stone, the interior stairway divides at the rear. They have been preserved through the years with the contracts of 1792 for repairing the building. The plans are professionally drawn with considerable skill, but if they are from the drawing board of Anderson, it is quite evident that they were discarded in favor of others. Thomas W. Griffith, one of the earliest historians of the state (1821), wrote that the architect of the State House was William Anderson. Since the only William Anderson living at that time was a man in the mercantile business, with no architectural ambitions, it may be presumed that Griffith, having some first-hand knowledge of the facts, had confused the first name. In summing up, Joseph Horatio Anderson asserted that he designed and supervised the Maryland State House. The weight of evidence is that he may have drawn plans which were never used, but he definitely had no further connection with this building, now the oldest State House in continuous use.

It is easy to prove that Anderson was living in Annapolis during the years when the State House was under way. There was an unclaimed letter for him in the Post Office in April 1771, and it was about this time that he was trying his hand at a design for a new house and store for Charles Wallace himself; Joshua Johnson, the London partner in the large mercantile firm of Wallace, Davidson & Johnson, writes home for news and asks if the new building "is agreeable to Anderson's plan or Noakes?"⁶ In March 1772 a lease (ground-rent) was made "between Charles Carroll, senior, of City of Annapolis, and J. H. Anderson of the same city for Lot 100 for 60 years at £6 per annum in dollars at 7:6 each, payable at the two most usual Feasts *vitz.* Annunciation of our Blessed Virgin Mary and the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel and agree to erect on said lot within 6 years such house or houses the Rent of which shall amount at least to £20 in dollars."⁷ This lot was on King George Street, next but one to the harbor.

⁵ Johns Hopkins University, John Work Garrett Library.

⁶ Wallace, Davidson & Johnson Letter Book, Vol. I, p. 46, Dec. 28, 1771; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

⁷ Anne Arundel County Deeds, IB #3, 1771-1773, Lease p. 245, Hall of Rec.