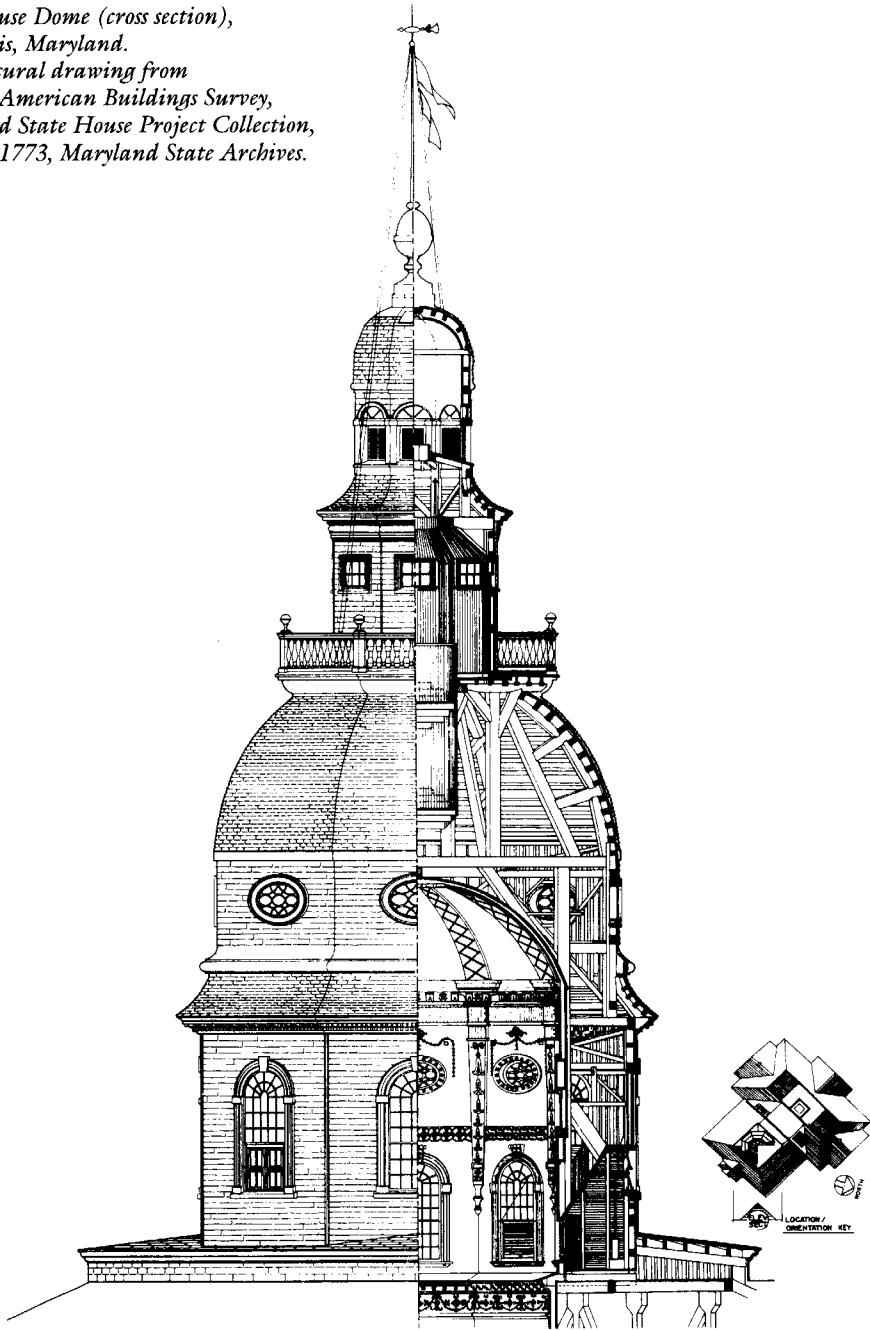


*State House Dome (cross section),  
Annapolis, Maryland.  
Architectural drawing from  
Historic American Buildings Survey,  
Maryland State House Project Collection,  
MSA SC1773, Maryland State Archives.*



The State House is the center of Maryland government. Three hundred years ago, in February 1694/95, that center, the capital, moved from St. Mary's City to Anne Arundel Town, now Annapolis. A bitter winter gripped the land, when the records of government were transported. "Lyeing so thick dead up & down the Country," swine, cattle, and horses were "dyeing dayly in great Numbers by means of the extremity of Weather & want of food . . ." (*Archives of Maryland*, XX: 191-192). Packed in hide bags, secured by cordage, the records were conveyed by boat across the Patuxent River and by horseback to the new capital.