

BILL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
CHASE HOUSE.By J. DONNELL TILGHMAN.

Who the builder of the Chase House in Annapolis was has long been one of the mysteries of Maryland architectural history. The appended bill, recently found among the papers of the Lloyd family, not only settles this question but gives information valuable to students of the methods and costs of colonial construction.

Samuel Chase, for £100 sterling purchased from Denton Hammond Lot 107 (Stoddert's plan of Annapolis) the land upon which the house stands.¹ In 1771 he sold the same property to Edward Lloyd of Wye House for £504..8..2 sterling plus £2491..17..7 Maryland currency.² Some writers have assumed this great difference in price was evidence the house had been built during the intervening years. Others assumed what is now proven, that the house was partly constructed when Edward Lloyd bought the property. This accounts not only for the difference in character between the simple, austere exterior and the more elaborate finish inside, but also for the duplication at Wye House in Talbot County of the unusual drop handles and escutcheons of the interior doors. The existing Wye House, built by Edward Lloyd sometime between the death of his father in 1770 and 1792, may possibly have been under construction at the same time as the interior of the Chase House. If, however, it was built later the escutcheons here would be copies of those at Annapolis.

That the Chase House was finished by Edward Lloyd is well borne out by this bill. The item for 161 modillions, those of the exterior cornice, shows they had been started under Samuel Chase's ownership and that he agreed to have them completed. The total in Maryland currency, it will be noted, is the same as

¹ Land Office Records, Liber IB, No. 1, folio 374, 23 May 1769.

² Provincial Court Records, Liber DD, No. 5, folio 259, 27 July 1771.

that mentioned in the deed of sale. The sum sterling includes the original cost of the lot, plus additional disbursements, and shows by comparison with the deed that Samuel Chase profited by £250 sterling in the transaction. This bill is obviously, therefore, an account of amounts already spent on the property when Edward Lloyd bought it.

Colonial houses that can be dated accurately, and their dates authenticated by documents, are extremely rare. The Chase House, now being among them, takes on a new importance in American architecture.

Dr. Colⁿ Edward Lloyd for Materials made use of and
Workmanship on Lott No. 107.

To the Lott	100		
To Francis Neale for the cellar and Vault	67..12..	0	
To digging the Well	1..15..		
To walling the same	3.. 2..	6	
To digging the cellar	12..		
To 262 Tun of Stone a 4/	52.. 8..	0	
To Pinkney for carting 1768 per acct.	3.. 4..	0	
To ditto for ditto 1769 May 27 to 18 Jan 1771	118.. 3..	5 1/2	
To ditto for ditto and Smith's work May 3rd 1771	18.. 1..	4 1/2	
To 16500 Stock Bricks at ye Dock	47.. 8..	9	
To 346 M place Bricks at 30/ per M at the Dock	519.. 0..	0	
To Philips for Brick Work per Contract and to Atic Story per Account	265..		
To Forsters acct ^t as Joiner & Carpenter and his servant Franks work taken from Scotts Book	22..15..	0	
To ditto for ditto	35..17..	11 1/2	
To Jubb Fowler for 18 days Shingling at 7/6	35..16..	7	
To Nicholas Minskie 3 1/2 days 7/6	6..15..	0	
To Brown for 57 6/	1.. 6..	3	
To Caleb Husslip 25 1/4 } 39 1/2 6/	17.. 2..	0	
To Philip Husslip 14 1/4 }	11..17..	0	

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To Philip Merony's Carpenters Account	4..19.. 0		
To Rob ^t Lambert's acc ^{tt} Do. Some work to be finished	31.. 3..		
To 1221 feet Cypruss Plank at 20/	12.. 4.. 2		
To Carver for 161 Modillions (to be finished by S. Chase)	20.. 2.. 6		
To Rum	15.. 0.. 0		
To Glass per bill	43..7..7		
To Rope from Johnson and Dick	7.. 6..11		
To poles from John Bullen 120 at 1/6	9.. 0.. 0		
To Colin Campbells Acct	12.. 6.. 2		
To James Baldwin's Carpenters account	13.. 5.. 0		
To Carting Sand	20.. 0.. 0		
To M. Jacques for 3 M Battins	1.. 8.. 6		
To W ^m Hewitt for mending Lime Casks, Buckett, carting Posts for Shed per his book	3.. 4.. 6		
To 40 Casks to bring the Lime a 3/	6..		
To 9 Grindstones	4..10..		
To John Brown's Account for Sawing	4.. 8.. 0		
To Ezekiel Bell for 2582 feet of Inch Plank a 7/	9.. 0.. 9		
To Reuben Delano for 11 M of Inch Plank a 6/6	35..15.. 0		
To Cha ^s Wallace for Lime & Scantling	7..15.. 6		
To Mrs Adams for Pump and repairing it several Times	10.. 8.. 6		
To Tho ^s Hyde for Pump Leather, Glue & Brads per Ac ^{tt}	1.. 7.. 4		
To Carter for Load of Sand from Severn	3.. 0.. 0		
To Scott for Wages Board 2 Years & Passage from England	135.. 0.. 0		
	Sterling	Currency	
To Am ^t brought over	143..7..7	1606.. 8..10	
To Morrison a Servant for 309 Days		61..16.. 0	
To Smith for 347 3/4 Days a 4/		69..11.. 0	
To Rent of Warehouse for securing Plank		3.. 4.. 2	

To Labourers hired 664 Days about			
Brick Work	a 3/	99..12..	
To 29 M Shingles	a 22/6	32..12..	6
To Spencer Waters bill	310..10..9½	261.. 9.. 4½	
deduct for Shingles			
and Plank lent	49.. 1..5		
To 2 M Bushels Lime	175.. 0..0	152..14..	4
deduct 255¼ lent	22.. 5..8		
To John Brown for Lime if too much Chase to			
refund if too little Col ⁿ Lloyd to pay		12.. 5..	0
To Mollisons Bill	111..0..7		
To W ^m Logan for 1700 Bricks for Shed a 12/6		1.. 1..	3
To Bazell Sewell for Scantling		1..13..	4
To 200 C Whiting		17..	6
To 10 Gall of Oil		2.. 5..	
To building Chimney to Shed		1..15..	0
To John Gray Scantling per Acc ^{tt}		6..15..	10
To Cha ^s Carroll Barr ^t Acc ^{tt}		8.. 9..	10
To Labourers for the Foundation 8 Hands two			
Months per F. Neals at 3£ a Month		43.. 0..	0
To Labourers belonging to Mr. Chase when			
about ye Brick Work		72.. 0..	0
To Scotts acct for Plaining Cypruss Plank		1..10..	0
To Allen Quynn for over looking Building		30.. 0..	0
To W ^m Tuck painting & Glazing per Acc ^{tt}		13..15..	2
To John Donne's Smiths Account		4.. 1..	6
		254..8..2	£2491..17.. 7

To Robinson for Lime and recording Deed from Hammon^d to
Chase not ent^d above.

Cha Wallace
Ja Burr