1792

The following are minutes of a Board of Commissioners appointed by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina for the purpose of Siting & Superintending the Building of a Statehouse at the place Established for the Seat of the Government of said State, which together with a plan of the Statehouse, & for the Governors house &c. (if rendered by the person engaged to draw them) are by the said Board of Commissioners, humbly submitted to the perusal of the General Assembly.

The Board convened at Isaac Hunters the 20th March 1792
Present. Theophilus Hunter. Robert Goodloe
Nathan Bryan. John Macon

Adjourned until Tomorrow, then to meet at Wake Courthouse.

21st March

met according to adjournment.

Nathan Bryan Esqr. was appointed Chairman, & William Christmas their Clerk.

The Board being of Opinion, the Sum of money voted by the General Assembly is not sufficient to pay for, & completely to finish a Brick building of proper Size conveniently to accomodate that Body when convened on publick business, therefore resolved, that the Statehouse shall be made of Wood, & stand on a substantial brick Wall four feet from the Surface of the Earth.

Adjourned till Tomorrow 10, Clock

22d

met according to adjournment

Mr Richard Bennehan a member of the Board, appeared & took his Seat. and plans were drawn out of which a Model to be chosen as a guide to an undertaker for building the State house,

Adjourned till tomorrow 9, Clock

23d

Met according to adjournment

The Board entered on the business of Yesterday, and

Adjourned till tomorrow 9, Clock

24th

Met according to adjournment.

The indisposition of Colo. Bryan being such, that Theophilus Hunter was appointed Chairman in place of Mr. Bryan.

The Board in waiting for the purchasing Commissioners to contract for a seat of Land, & appoint a time for the Sale of the Town Lots, came to the following resolution, that they would not at their present meeting contract with any person for the Building of the

Statehouse, but that the Setting thereof should be proclaimed by advertisement to be at Wake Courthouse on the 4th Day of June next, to which time & place the Board stands Adjourned:

Theophilus Hunter chairman

Wake Courthouse June 4th 1792

The commissioners Appointed by the General Assembly for contracting & superintending the Publick buildings at this Seat meeting according to Adjournment.

Present. Theophilus Hunter. chairman
Nathan Bryan. Richard Bennehan.
Robert Goodloe. John Macon.

Resolved, that Ransom Sutherland be appointed clerk to the Board in the Room & place of William Christmas resigned.

Theophilus Hunter Richard Bennehan & Robert Goodloe, Reported to the Board, that they had on the 17th Day of April last, waited on his Excellency Governor Martin in Hillsborough, where & when they entered into Bond according to Law, & gave for Security Richard Banks. Warren Alford, & Ransom Sutherland, and had Obtained of his Excellency the Governor, three Warrants on the Treasury, payable to the Commissioners for the purpose of building the Statehouse. Each Warrant to cover the sum of £3333.6.8. payable at three different periods.

The Board then resolved, that their former resolution respecting a Wooden Statehouse be rescinded, & that a Brick building be erected in lieu thereof 110. by 52 feet. — Adjourned til tomorrow 7 Oclock.

5th

Met according to Adjournment. present as on Yesterday.

They resolved, that on the morrow, those inclinable to become undertakers for the building of the Statehouse, should render to the Board their estimates respectively, on the plan & Draft of work furnished for that purpose. — Adj.d til 3 oclock P.M.

at 3 oclock met accord.g to Adj.mt present as in the forenoon.

The Board resolved, to contract with that person to build the Statehouse whose estimate appears to be lowest & most advantageous to the State,

provided his knowledge of the business was well recommended, and the Securities offered were good. — Adjd. till tomorrow 6 Oclock

6th

The Board met, present as on Yesterday.

Mr. Allen from the Town of Wilmington laid before the Board a plan of a Statehouse, with offers to become the undertaker, which is to be considered tomorrow at 10 Oclock, together with his estimate on the plan & Draft of work furnished by the Board for that purpose.

Mr. Pius Ingram of Sussexburg County in the Commonwealth of Virginia, made an offer to become the undertaker, whose estimate to be considered Tomorrow.

Mr. Charles West of Stokes County, made an offer to become the undertaker, his estimate to be considered tomorrow

Mr. Rhodam Atkins made an offer to become the undertaker His estimate to be considered tomorrow.

Colo. Thomas Claiborne from Virginia made an offer to become the undertaker, his estimate to be considered tomorrow.

Mr. Pointer from the District of Edenton made an offer to become the undertaker, his estimate to be considered tomorrow.

The receiving estimates on this day agreeably to the order of yesterday is at the particular request of some of the above named Gentlemen laid over until tomorrow, in order to give them full time to complete the same.

The Board on Supplication, obtained of the purchasing Board the following resolution.

June the 6th 1792. Resolved, that the commissioners for Superintending the publick Buildings be allowed to cut timber in any of the Shrubs for fire wood to burn Bricks, & pine timber on any of the publick Land for the publick building, & that they be also allowed to make bricks on any part of the publick Land without the Limits of the City, & on the Lots No. 154. & 138. which are reserved for that purpose. — A True Copy —

Adjourned till tomorrow 8 Oclock

7th

The Board met, present as on Yesterday.

Ordered, that the Gentlemen who have made offers to become undertakers for building the Statehouse, be separately called upon to render in their estimates of the lowest terms, & how much they would perform for the money voted by the General Assembly, agreeable to the plan & Draft of work exhibited by the Board. —

Mr. Allen of Wilmington for self & Mr. Porter reported his estimate as follows. That the Statehouse could not be completed Agreeable to the plan & Draft exhibited by the Board for a less Sum than £13700. Nor could they undertake for a less Sum than £12800. to complete the Same, (excepting all the inside work of the lower Story,) only the floor.

Jno. Allen.

Thomas Claiborne for self & Ingram reported as follows. That in three years from Christmas next they would complete the whole of the Walls, run up the Stairs, make the Roof, Chimnys, Doors & Windows, & complete the upper Story Agreeable to the plan exhibited by the Board, for the Sum of £10,000. & will engage to get the house in such forwardness as to receive the Assembly by Christmas Coming twelve month, & will engage to begin the work by the first of October next, and stick to it until they complete what part they will engage to perform for the Sum Aboresaid. Signed.

Thos. Claiborne.

Rhodham Atkins reported as follows, — That he would complete the Statehouse agreeable to the plan & Draft exhibited by the Board except the following particulars. That is to Say, — The plastering, Cornicing & Wainscoting below Stairs, or in the lower Story, and will be bound to complete what he engages to do, in two years & six months to commence on the 20th July next. for the Sum of £10,000. Signed.

R. Atkins

Mr. Vail of Stokes County absented himself from the Board & never reported his Estimate.

Resolved, that the Board approve of the above offer of Mr. Atkins for building the Statehouse, & have therefore on considering the Same the most advantageous that have come to their Knowledge, accordingly contracted with him, Have ordered their Clerk to prepare a Bond to contain the following Substance —

The said Mr. Atkins Shall be bound to complete the Statehouse agreeably to the plan & Draft of work exhibited by the Board. Except the following particulars (not to be included in the Contract) That is to Say, The Plastering Cornicing, & Wainscot-

-ing below Stairs, or in the Lower Story. And to complete the Same except as above, in two years & Six months, to commence on the 20th July next.

Adjd. til tomorrow 8 Oclock in the forenoon.

8th

Met according to Adjournmt. present as on Yesterday

Mr. Rhodham Atkins entered into Bond Obliging himself to build the State house Agreeable to his proposition, & gave for Securities the following persons Viz. Joel Lane. Henry Lane, John Medearas. Richard Banks. Theophilus Hunter Junr. & James Hinton, who are Jointly & Severally bound with the Said Mr. Atkins in the Sum of £20,000, that he the Said Rhodham Atkins Shall in a Workmanlike manner build the Statehouse on the Publick Square in the City lately established for the Seat of the Government, (by the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose) to be Approved of & received by the Board or a Majority of them, Which Statehouse Shall be of the following dimensions, 110 feet in Length, by 52 feet in Width, two Stories high, & the Work Shall be conducted in the following manner Viz.

The Walls of the foundation Shall be four feet thick, to begin on a Solled Bottom, & raised four feet above the Surface of the Earth at the nearest part thereof, made of good brick or Stone, & then to form the first floor and Water Table on that foundation, from thence the Walls Shall continue three feet thick 16 feet high from the first floor to the first Ceiling, & then form the Second floor, from thence the walls Shall continue two foot three inches thick 16 feet high to the Second Ceiling, & then form the Roof.

There Shall be two partition Brick Walls to extend through the house lengthways, to begin from the Same depth in the earth as the Outside Walls, four feet 1½ inches thick up to the first floor, thence to be continued two foot 7½ inches thick up to the Second floor, thence one of them Shall continue 18½ inches thick up to the

third & last floor.

There shall be four partition Brick Walls through the House Crossways, to begin the same depth in the earth as those before mentioned, & carried two foot 3 inches thick up to the first floor. thence to continue 18 inches thick up to the second floor, thence two of them shall be continued entire to the third & last floor; & the other two to be continued in part up to the said last floor, so as to form the smaller rooms in the second story. —

The whole of the outside Walls shall be made of good well burnt bricks laid in lime two measures for one of Loom or Sand nine inches deep, The rest & remainder of said Walls through, the bricks shall be laid in half lime & half Loom or Sand; — The division Walls shall all be made of good bricks, laid in half lime, & half Loom or Sand, And all the Walls within & without, shall be well secured with strong tie timbers. —

There shall be four chimneys, two at each end of the house, 10 feet 8 inches in the back, & so constructed that the outer walls shall remain flush on the outside, — There shall be four outside Doors 12 feet by 6. 2½ inches thick, frames casings &c. included; — 36. 18 light Windows to be glazed with crown glass 16 by 12 inches, frames. sashes. sheaves & seads included, The lower floor to consist of pine plank clear of knots 1½ inch thick. 6 inches wide. doweled & securely nailed, Seven inner ~~[illegible]~~ Doors 3½ feet by 8. 2½ inches thick frames casings &c. included. — an Elegant Staircase five feet wide. with rails. Ballesters, & Brackets.

In the upper story shall be, Seven Doors 3½ feet by 8. 2½ inches thick, frames casings &c included. The floor shall be laid of good pine plank clear of knots. 1½ inch thick. 6 inches wide. Tongued & groved, & securely nailed, — The passage, Senate & Commons Halls, to be wainscoted four feet high with modilion cornice, — The other four smaller Rooms with chair & wash boards only. — and all the rooms in the said story shall be comptitely finished, plastered & painted of various colours as the said commissioners or a majority of them shall direct, — Two Galleries to be comptitely finished

with rails & Ballisters over the Assembly rooms, — Two elegant Armed chairs, one in each of said rooms for the Speakers, and two elegant well finished convenient writing Desks in each room for the clerks. also convenient circular Seats in each room for the Seting of the General Assembly. ——

A Strong principal Roof lifted at each end, & well secured with Irons where required. to be Sheeted with 3/4 inch plank, the Shingles out of the heart of Cypress. 18 inches long 3/4 inch thick. 4 inches wide. Show 4 inches. with Square Butts, and well painted with Spanish Brown & red Lead, with an elegant Modelion Cornice round the Sett.

The outer Doors to be hung with 2 pr. dovetail Birch Joint hinges each, & fast on with Screw nails. — Large Brass Locks to all the Doors, & Bolts where necessary. — all the plank to be Sufficiently Kiln dried before it is laid or made up, all the timbers Shall be Substantially Strong, & no part of them including Sap, Shall be exposed to the weather, all the inner Doors Shall be hung with three hinges each and Screw nails as above mentioned.

The whole to be completed in two years & six months commencing on the 20th July next.

The Board then resolved, that the undertakers Bond should be deposited in the hands of Col. Theophilus Hunter the chairman for safe keeping, and on this day the Board paid unto Wm. Rhodham Atkins one Governors Warrant No. 67 for £ 3333. 6. 8. and hath obtained his receit for the same,

Resolved, that Wm. John Allen of the Town of Wilmington be directed by the Board or some member thereof, to prepare a plan for the Governors house, the necessary houses & offices thereunto requisite, & report the same to the Board at Wake Courthouse on the first monday in September next,

Mr. Bryan & Mr. Goodloe, from a belief that they could not attend the next meeting of the Board, beged leave to present for approbation, their respective claims for attending two meetings of the Board. Viz March & June. which was accordingly admitted, & approved as follows.—

Mr. Nathan Bryan charges as fol.

Attending 2 Meetings. Expences, & traveling to & from Wake Court house } £33.10 —

Mr. Robert Goodloe charges as follows.

Attending 2 meetings of the Board March & June including to & from Hillsbo. to obtain the Warrants } 16 days 20/. £16 —

Necessary expences at 10/. ⅌ Day . . . . . 8 —

£24. —

The Board then adjourned to the first monday in September next, then to meet at Wake Court house.—

Signed Theophilus Hunter Chairman

The Board met at Wake Court house on the first monday in September according to adjournment. 3d day of the month

Present. Theophilus Hunter, Chairman
Richard Bennehan
John Macon.

The Board received a message from Mr. John Allen of Wilmington, purporting, that he could not possibly furnish the Board at this time with a plan of the Governors house &c. Agreeably to his contract & promise in June last, but has further promised, that he will forward them to the General Assembly at their next meeting, which will be Submitted.— The Board Resolved, That they would not at this time report plans for any other publick buildings, but Submits it to the General Assembly to direct in that business as they may hereafter think just and necessary.

Adjourned till tomorrow 10, O'Clock

4th day of Sept.

The Board met according to Adjournmt. present as on Yesterday

The Board Resolved, that Mr. Rhodham Atkins the undertaker Should at this time, report what forwardness he had got the Work upon the Statehouse, Who accordinly reported, that he Should be ready to lay the foundation thereof Some time in the first or Second week in October. (next month.)

The Board then directed, he Should found it precisely on the center of Union Square, in the Government City — and that it shall front East & West.

The Board then made estimates of the respective claims of the members present. including three meetings, March, June & September;

John Macon exhibited his claim & charges as follows.

Traveling to & from Wake Courthouse & attending 3 meetings of the Board. March. June & September	21 days 20/.	£21 —
necessary expences at 10/. ⅌ Day		10.10 —
		£31.10

Theophilus Hunter exhibited his claim, & charges as follows.

Traveling & attending 3 meetings of the Board. March. June and Sept. including to & from Hillsbo. to obtain the Warrants.

15 Days. 20/.		£15 —
necessary expences at 6/. ⅌ Day		4.10 —
Printed Advertisements for Liting the Statehouse		2 —
1 Quire paper for the use of the Board		3.6
		£21.13.6

Richard Bennehan exhibited his claim & charges as follows.

Traveling & attending 3 meetings of the Board. March. June and Sept. including to & from Hillsbo. to obtain the Warrants

20 Days	20/.	£20 —
necessary expences at 10/. ⅌ Day		10 —
		£30 —

The Board then Resolved, That Ransom Sutherland their clerk should be allowed the sum of Eight pounds for all services to this day, to include a fair Transcript of their proceedings to be laid before the General Assembly.

The Board then adjourned to the first Monday in March next, then to meet at Wake Courthouse.

Signed Theophilus Hunter chair.

A True Copy Test.
Ransom Sutherland clk.

The State, for their meetings of the Board of Commissioners to superintend the Publick Buildings Expends the following Sums.

Wm. Nathan Bryan 2 meetings	£33.10
Wm. Robert Goodloe 2 ditto do	24
Wm. John Mason 3 ditto	31.10
Wm. Theophilus Hunter 3 ditto do	21.13.6
Wm. Richard Bennehan 3 ditto do	30
clk. R. Sutherland	£8
	£148.13.6

E. E. R. S.