To French Coxe, Comptroller

Joseph Whipple
Jan. 30, 1793.

Sir In addition to the draughts transmitted and mentioned in my letter dated the 20th instant, I have now inclosed herewith a draught of Piscataqua Harbour and adjacient Sea Coast copied from Barnsley's charts, the principal purpose of which is to show the bearings of the Lighthouse from Sea and in what degree its proposed elevation would increase its visibility as to its extent on the Sea Coast. This draught tho not accirate will show also the Situation of several rocks to which the afficing of buoys are recommended.

I inclose also the Copy of a draught of the harbour on a large scale and which having been made from surveys can be depended on for its accuracy. To these papers, I have added a small Map of the State of New Hampshire, an improvement on Holland's (?) Map which though not perfect on the Northern frontier is well done on the Sea Coast and the Southern and Western boundaries.

In the return lately made in answer to your circular queries, I confined myself principally to those queries but I will take the liberty now to remark that the Ground ceded to the United States with the Lighthouse includes a fortification which had been supported as such upwards of 100 years and the establishment was considered as usefull and necessary. Till the Revolution a considerable military force was supported here in time of War and it was supposed to be capable with the assistance of a Small Fort on an elevated spot of ground on the oposite shore in Kittery to resist any Sea Force that was apprehended might attack it. The peace establishment was a Captain and 10 men whose Service was to keep the Fort in repair, taking care of the Guns and military Stores and give assistance to the Revenue department. It was an unfailing practice and in compliance with the law for all Vessels to answer at this fort in

passing. I do not know that a military establishment would be relished at this time by people in the State or whether it would be thought proper by government, but it is ~~anxiously thought~~ a pity that the Fort should fall wholly to decay, if it be thought proper ever to resume the use of it

I conceive that both the Lighthouse establishment and the Revenue would be benefited by placing an officer at this Port who might have the charge of the Lighthouse, be an Inspector of Surveyor of the Customs and have under him a Suitable number of hands to man a boat(which number might be 4 or 6). These might be drawn from the Invalid pensioners (Now at half pay) if such could be found who are capable which I think not improbable, the employ of whom should be to attend the Lighthouse, Visit vessels and keep the Fortification in Repair.

Should it be thought proper to adopt an improvement of the kind now proposed, I would take the liberty to recommend for the office to be appointed Mr. McFarland who I am informed was a breve and deserving officer in the Army and from the Character that I have had of him, I think he would be an Active and vigilant officer and such an one I concieve would be requisite in that Station for though I have the satisfaction to know there are but few in this Port who are disposed to depart from an honest compliance with the Revenue Laws, yet I am sensible there are some who wish a disconnection between the Light-house (situated as it is, overlooking every movement in the harbour) from the Custom House, which would admit of more convenient opportunities for the practice of fraud.

I have considered myself as not authorized to make any alterations in the Construction of the Lantherns of the Lighthouse or of the lamps without direction but I would now request permission to adopt for trial

the kind of lamps made use of in some other Lighthouses, the expence of which will not be considerable and if successfull the same may be removed to such Lighthouses as may be hereafter built. Having heard that the Lighthouse at Nantucket was illimined equal or preferable to any as to the construction of lamps, I have sent for a description of them which I would wish to adopt or such other as you may have reason to offer. I am, Sir, etc etc.